





# Wisley airfield to remain closed, Government rules

By John Young, Planning Reporter

The Government yesterday rejected a scheme to reopen the closed Wisley airfield, Surrey, for general aviation.

Its decision coincided with publication of a report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) which found that there had been no maladministration in the Government's decision to sell the land back to its former owner's heir, Lord Lytton, under the so-called Cricheil Down rules.

But the Ombudsman, Mr Cecil Clothier, QC, criticized the fact that the land was sold with the old runway in situ despite repeated assurances to the local authorities, amounting to a moral commitment, that the runway would be taken up before the site was sold.

A public inquiry into an appeal by Jentette Ltd into the refusal by Guildford Borough Council to give permission for the airfield to be reopened lasted from January 20 to March 6 this year. The Ombudsman, who included local authorities at every stage, expressed concern at the noise and traffic generated by the runway, and what he said was the Government's failure to take the land into account for agriculture and defence.

Mr Shane Reese, the inspector, accepted that the site had local advantages, and that there were fewer more suitable facilities for business aviation.

But to grant the appeal there would have to be a clearly established national or sub-national need, and all other alternative sites, with less favourable planning barriers. He did not find there was such a powerful case.

The Ombudsman, in his report, said there was no evidence of collusion or corruption on the part of the Government. The Government's Property Services Agency had been professional and efficient in all its dealings, and the vote which occurred before the site was sold.

But he felt that the decision to retain the runway, inconsistent as it was with what had gone before, was administratively inept. Correspondence about the Government's plans for its removal amounted, in his opinion, to a moral commitment.

## Doy side boy in lory prank

Six-year-old boys from the Roman Catholic school, were fined yesterday for driving a cement-mixer lorry after a visit to a public house.

The boys, all aged 18, are pupils at the school which is attached to the Benedictine monastery at Stratton-on-the-Avon, Somerset.

Jamie St John Harris was fined £75 for taking the vehicle without the owner's consent; Clemente Paez, a Spaniard, was fined £75 for the same offence, and was also fined £10 for driving without a licence; and £10 for being without insurance; Julian Raymond Browne was fined £50 for allowing himself to be carried on the lorry knowing that it had been taken without consent.

Magistrates at Shepton Mallet were told the boys had been to the Horse and Jockey at the village of Binegar and had decided to walk back to the school some miles away after closing time.

They saw the lorry parked at a quarry with the keys in it and drove it about the yard and on to the road.

Mr Palasz had said they were slightly drunk, but they had no intention of taking away the lorry.

Father Edward Cruzet, a housemaster at the school, said that taking the lorry had been "a high-spirited act of irresponsibility, but no malice was intended".

## TIN MINER KILLED

A man was killed at a Cornish tin mine yesterday, a rock several feet wide fell on him while he was working 2,000ft down in the South Crofty mine near Camborne.

## Closed shop girl not to press case

From Clifford Webb, Birmingham

Miss Joanna Harris, aged 21, the poultry inspector at the centre of a closed shop dispute, said yesterday that she still hopes to get her job back with Sandwell council in the West Midlands.

But she had decided not to take her case, alleging unfair dismissal, to an industrial tribunal because "it is a long drawn out process and there is no guarantee that I shall get my job back when it is all over".

The three-month deadline for an appeal expires on Friday.

She said she hoped that the council would change its mind after the decision by the local branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association to press for the closed shop agreement with Sandwell council to be dropped.

In the meantime she has taken a part-time job selling cosmetics from door to door.

Backbench Tory MPs are pressing Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, to introduce legislation to end all "union only" clauses in contracts. They also want the Employment Protection Act to be extended to enable employees to vote by ballot.

Sandwell council has decided that its closed shop agreement will continue for the time being despite the change of heart by its Nalco members because its withdrawal requires the consent of three other unions and they will not give it.

Miss Harris, future and the closed shop issue is expected to receive a full airing at Nalco's annual conference in Blackpool this week.



"At least he comes back for servicing."

## Fabians relegate SDP members

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Fabian Society voted yesterday to deny full membership and voting rights to social democrats. Dispossessed members reacted angrily and there were forecasts of substantial defections from the society.

The decision to relegate the social democrats, who include Mrs Shirley Williams, the former chairman, from full to associate membership was taken in a ballot, by 1,344 members to 1,343, a majority of 201.

The poll, on a recommendation from the society's executive, was the biggest in its history, an indication of interest in the issue. The executive was clearly taken aback by the size of the vote against it.

Several leading social democrats were on the executive until they formed the new party in March, when they resigned. Apart from Mrs Williams, they include Mr John Roper, MP for Farnworth and the society's former treasurer, and Mr John Cartwright, MP for Greenwich, Woolwich East.

## SDP one-upmanship alleged by Liberals

The social democrats were accused yesterday of one-upmanship in their dealings with Liberal leaders which led to the SDP being given a clear run to fight the Warrington by-election (Philip Webster writes).

The attack came in a leading article in *Liberal News*, the official journal of the party, which also implied that the Liberals had been out-

manoeuvred. The election pact was agreed last Wednesday when the Liberals agreed not to put up a candidate.

The article in *Liberal News* cuttily stated: "You've got to give credit to the social democrats for considerable talent at the negotiating table. Sharpened by the daily joust for power which are so much a part of life in the Labour Party, they are a match for anyone."

Dr David Owen, one of the leaders of the SDP, said last night that the party must aim to win the support of the 40 per cent of trade unionists who voted Conservative at the last election.

Shame and anger at mounting unemployment are two of the reasons why concerned Conservatives are becoming social democrats, he said.

The Labour candidate for the Warrington by-election will be chosen on June 21 from a list of nominations which could contain 60 names (the Press Association reports).

## Attack on college deplored

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A packed meeting of almost 300 academics at Chelsea College, London, yesterday called on the Swinerton-Dyer committee on the academic reorganisation of London University to withdraw its "malicious attack on the academic standards and professional competence of Chelsea College staff, students and graduates".

In its report sent to heads of colleges earlier this month, the committee, chaired by Sir Peter Swinerton-Dyer, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, said that while Chelsea was highly regarded in some areas, such as science education, nursing, and the history and philosophy of science, the committee was "not confident that the same can be said for the rest of Chelsea".

It recommended that there should be a peer review of all departments save the three mentioned "with a view to phasing out those which do not come up to the standard of the rest of the university." If the surviving departments were insufficient to constitute an independent college, they might have to be incorporated into other colleges, it said.

In a letter sent yesterday to Lord Annan, Vice-Chancellor of London University, the Chelsea College branch of the Association of University Teachers said it was "deeply disappointed" that the committee's comments arose from a desire to force the closure issue.

Any objective evidence to support the implications that academic standards at Chelsea were lower than in the rest of the university, should be produced forthwith.

## Left forces tighter rein on union-backed MPs

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Brighton

Left-wing reformists within the Labour Party carried their political campaign one stage further yesterday by successfully insisting on a periodic review of MPs sponsored by Britain's third largest union.

Delegates to the policy conference of the General and Municipal Workers Union, voted in private session to deplore the activities of some members of its official and unofficial parliamentary panels.

Two former Labour MPs sponsored by the union have joined the social democrats.

The successful motion argued that by publicly campaigning against the Labour Party, they had damaged the interests of union members and their families.

Contrary to the wishes of the GMWU leadership, delegates voted to instruct the union's executive to take steps to remove "the splitters" from its parliamentary panels, and to institute a procedure for periodically reviewing the union's parliamentary sponsorship.

Such a procedure will involve consulting all the regions of the union before final decisions are taken on whether to accept existing MPs as proper representatives of the GMWU in Parliament.

"Yesterday's move" comes after the expulsion from the panel of Mr William Rodgers, now a leading member of the Social Democratic Party. His removal has been communicated to the local Labour Party in Stockton-on-Tees. From the "unofficial" panel, the name of Mr Neville Sandelson, another defector to the social democrats, has also been removed.

The union sponsors 13 sitting MPs on its official panel, most of whom are moderates.

## Councillors in police talks protest

From Arthur Osamu, Eastbourne

Labour councillors who now run many of Britain's police authorities are angry at the way the annual chief constables' conference at Eastbourne has been organized.

Elected last month on a manifesto of making chief constables more accountable to the public, the councillors say they have been denied a voice at the conference, held jointly between the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

They hope, however, to be allocated time tomorrow to give their views from the platform.

After a private meeting of 20 Labour representatives to establish common ground on accountability, Mr George Wilson, aged 35, a Greater Manchester councillor, said the conference was "so one-sided that it is farcical".

"I would emphasize that we are seeking more accountability by chief constables over areas of police work other than operational duties."

Ironically, it was Sir P. Knight, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, who raised the political issue from the platform.

Many chief constables would have to give considerable thought to their response to matters such as greater accountability, he said.

They would be happy to be accountable for decisions taken by their senior officers, and three other men were cleared at the Central Criminal Court of taking part in a confidence trick involving a proposed British tour by Ray Charles, the jazz singer.

But Mr Beaton, and one of the defendants, was found guilty of dishonestly obtaining a first-class air ticket to fly Charles to London.

The travel company received two worthless cheques amounting to £1,054.

Mr Beaton is to be sentenced today.

## NALGO PUTS BLAME ON CABINET

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government was accused yesterday by the leader of the country's fourth largest union of aggravating Britain's economic crisis, making the effects of the crisis worse than in any of the other main industrial nations.

Mr Peter Morgan, president of the National and Local Government Officers Association, told the union's conference in Blackpool: "No one lays all the blame at the Government's door. What we do say is that they have fanned a smouldering fire into a furnace, engulfing us all."

He said there appeared to be no sign of relief from the worst economic crisis since the early thirties. "I have never known such endemic social strain, much of it born in the Cabinet room in Downing Street."

Mr Morgan said the Government's policy of "austerity" was "a disaster" and that the Government was "a disaster" and that the Government was "a disaster".

The Adamsdown Community Law Centre in Cardiff and the Salisbury Action Centre in Birmingham say they face huge deficits because the department has failed to honour promises to increase staff salaries.

Mr Callaghan, Labour MP for Cardiff, South-East, has written a letter of protest to Lord Hallam about Adamsdown, which faces a deficit of £14,300 this financial year and claims it is threatened with closure.

Mr Denis Howell, Labour MP for Birmingham, Small Heath, is seeking a meeting with the Lord Chancellor, because Sal-

ley's grant for this year fails to take account of a pay award recommended by the Central Arbitration Committee last November, backdated to June this year.

Law Centre says that over the past two years the Lord Chancellor's Department has promised to upgrade salaries but it has reneged on that pledge.

The law centre's management committee, however, already acted on those undertakings and entered into legally binding agreements with staff last year to upgrade their pay from this April. Law centre staff are therefore now being paid a basic salary of £5,000.

Miss Jill Taylor, a community worker at the centre, said yesterday: "The centre has run on a shoestring budget ever since it opened."

## Farmers may tip scales in Irish poll

From Christopher Thomas, Dublin

Ireland's 125,000 farm owners, most of whom make a meagre living from fewer than 50 acres, could have a decisive impact on the general election tomorrow.

There are enough of them to tip the scales in many rural constituencies, notably Mayo, Kildare and Offaly. The big farmers, those with more than 50 acres, changed traditional political allegiances in 1977 and made an important contribution to the downfall of the Fine Gael-Labour Party coalition.

They moved over to Fianna Fail over the disputed issue of taxation of farmers' incomes by the coalition. The question now is whether they have forgiven Fine Gael.

The allegiance of the farmers is one of two big imponderables in the election. The other is the vote of the people of the Irish Republic, who are under 25, and they are not following the voting patterns set by their parents.

Many of the older generation still vote in line with the side their families took in the civil war. The party of the party of partition, Fianna Fail of unity.

The farmers' big concern is incomes, which are 55 per cent lower than three years ago. The boom years of the early and mid 1970s are given way to hard times. Most farms do not generate enough money to employ one farmhand, and the sons of farmers are looking elsewhere for work.

Fianna Fail has done its utmost to cushion the farmers, injecting £12m into agriculture in a single year, with EEC support.

That seems likely to push up incomes by a quarter, which may be enough for the party to hold on to the vitally important farming vote.

Ballet group cancels Belfast visit

An English ballet company has cancelled a week's engagement in Belfast because dancers were afraid of the violence which grew after the deaths of the IRA hunger-strikers (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

About 18 of the 25 members of Northern Ballet Theatre refused to perform in Northern Ireland despite an appeal by Mr Michael Barnes, general administrator of the Grand Opera House, Belfast.

He went to the company's base in Manchester two weeks ago in an attempt to persuade them and postponed announcing their withdrawal until yesterday in the hope that the young dancers would change their minds.

They were due to perform *The Nutcracker* from next Monday, but instead they will be dancing *Coppelia* in Exeter, Derbyshire.

Mr Barnes said: "I am very disappointed, not only for us, but for the dancers. They had doubts two weeks ago. I spoke to many of them to try to persuade them to continue with their trip. I think it was the younger dancers with the company who were most worried."

## Science report Gas change may be earthquake herald

By the Staff of Nature

Observations of how the proportions of helium and argon in gas bubbles escaping from the Earth vary with the tidal forces of the Moon may point a way to earthquake forecasting. That is the claim put forward by Mr. Sugiaki Sugita, a geochemist at Nagoya University in Japan, on the basis of measurements of the chemical composition of gas bubbles escaping from the bottom of a mineral spring at Byakko Spa, 25 miles from Nagoya.

Helium and argon are formed within surface rocks by radioactive decay; helium from materials related to uranium, and argon from the rare isotope of potassium known as potassium-41. At Byakko Spa the gas containing helium and argon is released in a pond of 100 square metres at a rate of about 400 kg a minute. The location of the pond on an active seismic fault is thought to account for the rapid evolution of the gas.

Mr Sugiaki collected gas from the pond with an inverted funnel placed on the bottom. The notion of measuring variations of helium and argon in the gas stemmed from the supposition that the release of both might be increased when the rocks were under stress, whether caused by events likely to precede an earthquake or by some other means.

The measurements show that there is a marked rhythmic variation in the ratio of helium and argon in the gas released in which helium is 10 times more abundant than argon or relatively 200,000 times more abundant compared with argon than in the atmosphere.

The variation of the ratio of helium and argon in the gas is surprisingly large, varying from a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 14, and the intervals between cycles are greater than 24 hours, corresponding to the period of the apparent revolution of the Moon about the Earth.

Mr Sugiaki's conclusion that the bodily rides within the Earth must be responsible is further supported by calculations of how the tidal stresses within the surface rocks should vary, which are themselves confirmed by measurements of the actual extension gauges of the surface rocks at a seismic station near by.

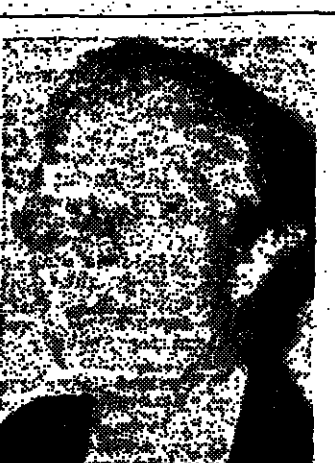
The pattern of variation of the ratios of helium and argon seems to lag four hours behind the extension of the surface rocks, which shift four hours in the escaping gas seems to be at a maximum when the tidal forces are greatest. The explanation put forward is that stresses in the surface rocks force both gases out of the cracks, but that helium is expelled more easily than argon.

While the dramatic variation of helium and argon observed at Byakko Spa is probably caused by the underlying fault system, which allows gas to seep from rocks to reach the surface within four hours or so, Mr Sugiaki's report will almost certainly stimulate a search for other such locations.

The link between these observations and earthquake prediction is based on the widely accepted view that earthquakes are preceded by an increase of the stress in the rock systems, which are eventually ruptured. In big earthquakes the stresses which accumulate before rupture are much greater than those caused by tidal forces, so in suitable locations the ratio of helium to argon in gas generated by the cracks should be an indicator of an impending earthquake.

Source: *Science*, June 12 (vol 212, page 1264).

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Shot couple: man held

Retired Lieutenant-Commander Gilbert Alder and his wife, Anne, who were shot dead at the weekend in their home at Oving, West Sussex. Police investigating the killings were last night questioning a man, and said they expected to charge him within the next 24 hours.

## AIR TICKET SWINDLE BY ACTOR

Norman Beaton, the black actor, cancelled his appearance at the National Theatre last night after being convicted of dishonesty.

Mr Beaton, aged 46, of King's Heath, Birmingham, and three other men were cleared at the Central Criminal Court of taking part in a confidence trick involving a proposed British tour by Ray Charles, the jazz singer.

But Mr Beaton, and one of the defendants, was found guilty of dishonestly obtaining a first-class air ticket to fly Charles to London.

The travel company received two worthless cheques amounting to £1,054.

Mr Beaton is to be sentenced today.

## Chinese snuff-bottle sale produces rare result

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Chinese snuff-bottle collectors from all over Europe and America descended on Sotheby's yesterday assuring that a 230 lot sale was almost a sellout, with prices often doubling the estimates. Such a result is more than rare in today's depressed art market.

Snuff-bottles from two famous collections turned this sale into an international event—33 bottles from the collection of F. W. A. Knight and his uncle Henry Knight and five superb pieces from the Edward T. Chow collection.

The Knight and Chow collections are two of the greatest Chinese art collections formed in this century; both the snuff-bottles in the 1930s and 1940s when they were little understood and there was practically no market in them.

The Chow bottles fetched the top prices: a superb Suzhou agate snuff-bottle at £10,000 (estimate £2,800-£3,500), a 17th-century jade bottle at £6,500 (estimate £2,000-£3,000) and a second relief carved agate bottle at £5,500 (estimate £2,500-£3,200).

The biggest attraction in the Knight collection was a carved ivory snuff-bottle made in the imperial workshops of Qianlong (1736-1795); only four are recorded in private hands. Despite a crack it fetched £6,500 (estimate £2,000-£3,000).

In Los Angeles on Monday a collection of fine Oriental art collected by the late Chiang Lee, of San Francisco, was sold for £518,663, again with less than 1 per cent unsold.

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## Rock stars may join TUC jobs festival

Labour Reporter  
By Donald MacIntyre

The TUC is to consider inviting rock musicians and professional footballers to take part in a national youth festival in the autumn to provide a climax for its protest campaign on unemployment.

Senior union leaders will discuss the proposal today as part of their plans to keep up the momentum after what Congress House sees as the undoubted success of the People's March for Jobs last month.

At the same time the TUC is to launch a series of initiatives calling for a programme of public investment, including large-scale construction projects intended to create 440,000 jobs over the next five years.

A paper going before today's meeting of the TUC economic committee suggests that a big event for young people should be treated as a priority in the next phase of the campaign against government economic policies.

Other suggestions made by the TUC's regional representatives are for a programme of the 1936 Jarrow march, a march from Scotland or Wales, a TUC-backed demonstration at the Conservative Party conference or a national one-hour stoppage. The confidential paper, however, says that it was clear from last week's meeting of regional council representatives that an autumn youth rally or festival was the suggestion that commanded widest support. It also said that the proposal for a national one-hour stoppage was rejected by union leaders.

In contrast to its original scepticism about the People's March for Jobs, the Congress House secretariat will advise union leaders today of the need to build on the support commanded by both the march and the TUC's week of action. Regional representatives agreed at their meeting last week that both events had been tremendously successful in exposing the inadequacies of government policies and highlighting the TUC's alternative.

Union leaders have also been told that the TUC intends, during the summer to issue a series of calls for large-scale investment in capital projects.

The aim of a detailed call for investment in the construction industry in particular would be "not only to stimulate this sector of the economy but to improve the whole quality of life of the nation by providing desperately needed homes, hospitals and services while at the same time modernising industry."

Proposals for capital investment programmes to form part of early legislation after the return of a Labour government have already been discussed by the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee. Some union leaders, notably Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, have been pressing for the establishment of short-life "sunset corporations" that could undertake big capital projects.

## BUILDING TRADE FACES STRIKES

Three of the four unions which represent 700,000 building workers decided yesterday to start a campaign of industrial action in support of a pay claim.

A 6.2 per cent pay offer by the building and civil engineering joint board was rejected by the Transport Union, the General and Municipal Workers and the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union. But it was accepted by the industry's biggest union, UCAIT, which represents 300,000 workers.

Officials of the three dissenting unions will meet in London on June 18 to decide strike targets.

## Equal pay laws still unfair to women, commission says

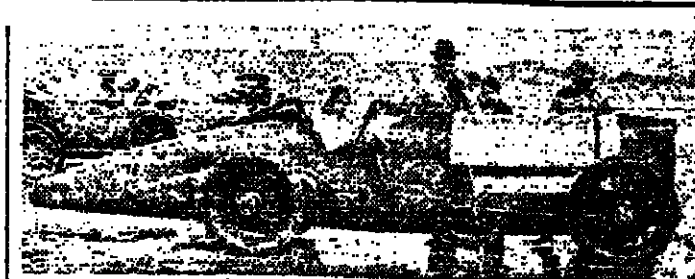
By Lucy Hodges

The Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday, on its fifth birthday, renewed its call to the Government to amend the law affecting women at work in order to improve their pay.

It said that women would continue to earn about 73 per cent of men's pay unless there were substantial changes to the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts. "Unless the Acts are strengthened there is a real possibility of growing disenchantment with the relevance of legislation as such in eliminating sex discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity," the commission said in its annual report.

The commission is not alone in its criticism of the Government. The EEC is to take the United Kingdom to court over the Equal Pay Act because it does not go far enough towards meeting European law.

In order to claim the same pay as a man, a woman has to



The old and the new: Left, Captain Malcolm Campbell in his record-breaking Sunbeam in 1924; centre, Donald Campbell in Bluebird in 1964; and, right, the solid-wheeled Thrust 2.

## Briton to attempt world speed record in jet car tested to 700 mph

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

The first British attempt for 17 years on the world land speed record will be made in October by Mr Richard Noble, aged 36, in his jet-powered car, Thrust 2.

He will be trying to beat the time of 622.407 mph set by Gary Gabelich, the American driver, in Blue Flame, in 1970, and he has chosen the same site, Bonneville salt flats, Utah, in the United States.

Mr Noble, an overseas manager with GKN, the engineering group, already holds

the British land speed record of 248.87 mph, established last September at the Royal Air Force base, Greenham Common, Berkshire.

Since then wind tunnel tests have indicated that the car is capable of up to 700 mph, which puts the world record well within reach. Mr Noble, who has been given leave of absence by his company, said yesterday: "I am very confident."

The world record attempt has to be made

because there are no runways available in Britain for speeds greater than about 280 mph. The Bonneville track will be up to 13 miles long and 200 feet wide.

Thrust 2 is powered by a Rolls Royce aero engine with 70 times the horsepower of a Formula One racing car and capable of accelerating to 300 mph from rest in 12 seconds. It has a tubular steel body, solid aluminium wheels and uses two parachutes to help it stop.

More than 150 British companies are supporting the project, which started in 1974. Thrust 2 was built at Fishborne, on the Isle of Wight, the home town of its designer, Mr John Acroyd. Mr Noble estimates the value of the vehicle at £700,000.

The world record was last held for Britain by the late Donald Campbell, who reached 403 mph in Bluebird in August, 1964.

## IN BRIEF

### Heseltine's grants threat denounced

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was accused yesterday of blatant intimidation and of possibly acting illegally by threatening not to pay grants to local authorities which did not reduce spending.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "All decent local government people should unite to prevent his threatened complete destruction of local government and its services."

### High ball hazard

Mr Laurence Wright, who operates aircraft at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, has threatened to take legal action to try to prevent players using the town council's new pitch and putt golf course adjoining the airfield because of the danger of high flying balls.

### Man battered dog

Alexander Falconer, aged 41, of Hamilton, Lanarkshire, found guilty of beating an albatross dog to death with a spade in a neighbour's back garden, was fined £100 at Hamilton Sheriff Court yesterday. He was also banned from holding or obtaining a dog licence for a year.

### Bejerman better

Sir John Bejerman, aged 75, the Post Laureate, left hospital in Sheffield yesterday after a two-month illness. Sir John, of Radnor Walk, Chelsea, London, suffered a stroke while visiting the Derbyshire Peak District eight weeks ago.

### Kipling garden saved

A plan to build houses in the walled garden of a house where Rudyard Kipling wrote *Kim* and *The Just-So Stories* was rejected yesterday after Brighton council's planning committee was told of opposition from residents of Rottingdean.

### Teacher's body found

The body of Mr David Palmer, aged 48, of Wath upon Dearne, South Yorkshire, a teacher missing for five weeks, has been found at the foot of a 300ft cliff near Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

### M1 police for trial

Eleven M1 patrol police officers from Hertfordshire were yesterday sent for trial by magistrates at Hertford on charges of conspiring to breach the Prevention of Corruption Act.

### Castle for sale

Amberley Castle, the fourteenth-century home of Lady Emmet, the former MP for East Grinstead who died last year, is being offered for sale for about £1m.

## Water board too large, report says

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Membership of the Severn-Trent Water Authority should be substantially reduced and should no longer be based predominantly on local government representation, a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission published yesterday, states.

The commission notes that there is considerable feeling that the authority is remote and that as a result customers' interests are not adequately represented.

It was envisaged when regional water authorities were set up, that the appointment of members by local authorities would provide a channel of local accountability, but clearly

the system is not giving satisfaction, it says.

It has led, in the case of Severn-Trent, to an authority of 48 members, which is so large as to affect its efficiency adversely, without providing commensurate benefits in terms of consumer representation. There are therefore grounds for altering the structure of the authority fundamentally.

The commission also expresses concern about the control of costs and about weaknesses in the supervision of the authority's divisions. "Budgets have tended to be slack," it says. "Where cuts have been made, they have generally been arbitrary and across the board."

During the first six years of the authority's existence, the number of manual employees declined by 33 per cent, while non-manual staff increased by 16.5 per cent, it points out.

The low priority given to cost-saving investment is also causing concern. Given a capital expenditure programme of about £90m a year, the authority has not yet developed a comprehensive strategic planning process that demonstrates that the overall level of investment is justified.

The commission found that in most cases allegations of extravagance were without foundation. But it was concerned about the high level of car allowances.

## 55,000 more emigrated than entered in 1980

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Many more people are emigrating from the United Kingdom, and fewer are immigrating, than came in 1980, but the year before 6,000 more people came than went.

The reason for the change was a jump in the number of emigrants from 189,000 to 229,000 and a fall in immigrant numbers from 195,000 to 174,000.

The figures were issued yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which said the net loss of 55,000 was the greatest since 1974. There were fewer immigrants

from Commonwealth countries, South Africa and Pakistan.

Most countries received more emigrants from the United Kingdom, in particular Australia, South Africa and the EEC.

Much of the increased emigration resulted from a sharp rise in the outflow of United Kingdom citizens. The inflow of United Kingdom citizens fell by more than that of other immigrants, and was the lowest level recorded.

In 1980 there were more than twice as many United Kingdom citizens leaving the country as entering it.

## Redundant churches need golden handshake

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The acquisition of foreign works of art ought not to take priority over preserving historic buildings, the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches states in its annual report, published yesterday.

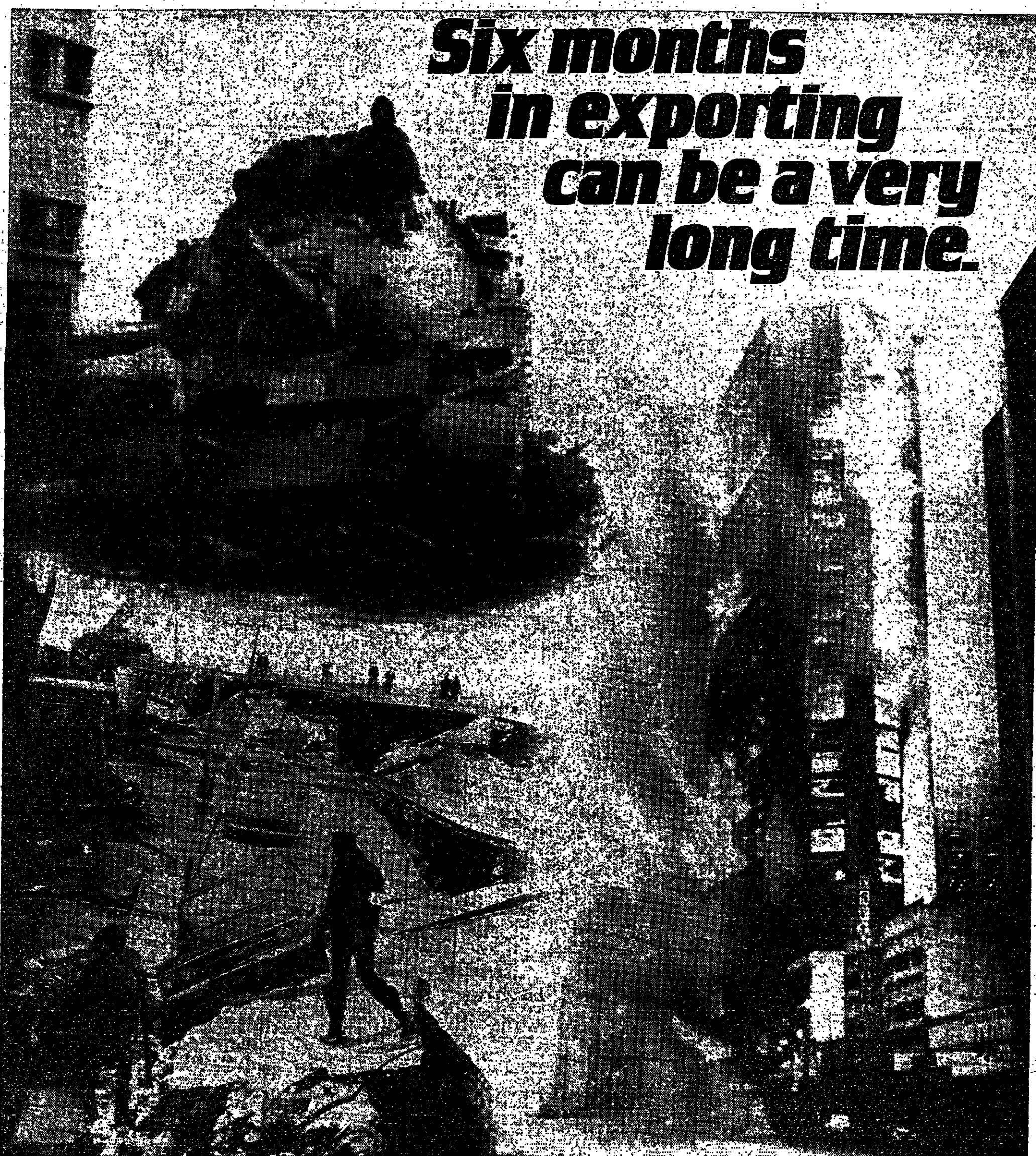
The report says the stock of architecturally valuable church buildings is threatened because of the pressure on the Redundant Churches Fund and advocates temporary conservation measures to prevent unused buildings falling into decay while decisions are made about their future.

Church buildings are sometimes unnecessarily declared redundant through neglect. "Many a building falls rapidly into decay owing to neglect of gutters and downpipes, failure to replace slipped tiles or slates, and failure to clear undergrowth from the base of walls," the report says.

In the year under review the board has recommended 22 churches for preservation, 34 as suitable for alternative uses, and ten for demolition. The fund, so far, has been able to take over the care of all those churches which the Church Commissioners, on the board's advice, have chosen to preserve. But there is a risk that the commissioners may start to disregard the board's advice because of lack of money.

The board therefore makes a plea for additional resources, arguing that an item of art not bought for the nation would at least survive elsewhere, whereas a neglected building would be lost for ever.

**Six months  
in exporting  
can be a very  
long time.**



## Damages for headmistress

Mrs Beryl Baker, a primary school headmistress, is to receive damages over an allegation in the *Sunday People* that a boy was "debaggged" arriving at school in long trousers instead of shorts.

The newspaper had quoted a parent as saying that Mr Baker's dictatorial enforcement of petty rules was intolerable. But Mr Justice Comyn was told in the High Court yesterday that there was no basis for the criticisms of Mrs Baker and her school, the John Falker county primary at Sawston, Cambridge.

Mrs Baker, of Helions Bump-

stead, Essex, accepted undisclosed damages, with a public apology in settlement of her libel action against Mirror Group Newspapers.

Mr Richard Rampton, for Mrs Baker, said boys were required to change into shorts on arrival at school because of classroom overheating caused by a faulty heating system.

The boy, Ben Bowyer, aged four, was not "debaggged" as he was given a spare pair of shorts which he changed into.

Mr Deane, for the newspaper, said the criticisms of Mrs Baker were wholly unwarranted.

Suddenly, the world seems to have entered an age of accelerated history.

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## PARLIAMENT June 9 1981

## Israeli raid on nuclear plant is condemned

The British Government did not believe that Iraq had the ability to manufacture fissile material for nuclear weapons, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, stated in the Commons at question time. She said that the Israeli raid on the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq was a gross breach of international law. She said that the Government had been at the forefront of the international effort to secure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. She said that the Government had been at the forefront of the international effort to secure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

## MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Foot: What steps has the Government taken already to try to implement the non-proliferation treaty? The Government has taken steps to implement the non-proliferation treaty. The Government has taken steps to implement the non-proliferation treaty. The Government has taken steps to implement the non-proliferation treaty.

son for the western democracies to be less cavalier in their export of nuclear technology? (Cheers) Is not the prime Minister, and the Government, concerned by the report that South Africa is using enriched uranium? There is urgent need to press these matters of greater inspection and control through the International Atomic Energy Authority. Mrs. Thatcher: Yes. One of the tragedies of the case was that Iraq was a signatory to that agreement. She had been inspected and none of these things pointed out to her. Of course it was an unprovoked attack and we must condemn that. We cannot have a country that is using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and at the same time is doing something to develop nuclear weapons.



Walters: Intolerable

Janner: Sense of relief

Soviet Union was insisting had to be monitored. Mr. Greville Janner (Leicester, West, Lab.): I would have had a nuclear weapons potential which it would have used against Israel. (Interruptions) Does he not feel a certain sense of relief that the Iraq regime will not have a nuclear weapons potential for some further time to come? Mrs. Thatcher: Had there been an attack on Israel of the kind there has just been on Iraq, I should totally and utterly have condemned it. I do therefore totally and utterly condemn the attack made upon Iraq.

## Ambulance men not underpaid

## HEALTH SERVICE

The decision of ambulance men to strike next week was a disaster, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said. They could be described as underpaid, he added. Mr. Jenkin said that the ambulance service was a very important part of the health service. He said that the ambulance men were not underpaid. He said that the ambulance men were not underpaid. He said that the ambulance men were not underpaid.

asked to get drugs from their general practitioners rather than hospital pharmacies. Clearly this was a way of avoiding the cost limit. We must make sure that there is no economic prescribing, both in hospitals and in general practice. Mr. Jenkin said that the Government had rejected the advice of the British Medical Association to get rid of the hundreds of worthless drugs being prescribed. He said that the Government had rejected the advice of the British Medical Association to get rid of the hundreds of worthless drugs being prescribed.

Mr. Jenkin: We have made it clear that we wish to ensure that private developers do not prejudice the NHS. This is why we retained in the National Health Service Act the power to ensure that private developers do not prejudice the NHS.

## Circular to be issued on collaboration

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, stated that he would issue a circular later in the week to the Health Service. He said that the circular was to ensure that private developers do not prejudice the NHS. He said that the circular was to ensure that private developers do not prejudice the NHS.

## Portrayal of NHS on television

The ATV documentary film about mental handicap hospitals to be shown on television during the week of the work of the national health service was criticised by the Health Service. The Health Service said that the film was a distortion of the work of the national health service.

## Enterprise zone firms to get help

## TRAINING BILL

Relieving companies in enterprise zones from industrial training board levy and the form filling burden will be a major part of the package of aids and incentives for these companies, Mr. James Prieor, Secretary of State for Employment, said at the start of the report stage of the Employment and Training Bill. The Bill abolishes the Employment Services Agency and the Training Services Agency.

The new clause would not make or break enterprise zones, since they were experimental, but the Government thought it right to give them the maximum chance of success by removing the reserve power proposed which would be used if a serious case of non-compliance arose. The Government thought it right to give them the maximum chance of success by removing the reserve power proposed which would be used if a serious case of non-compliance arose.

Mr. James Prieor said that the new clause was a major part of the package of aids and incentives for these companies. He said that the new clause was a major part of the package of aids and incentives for these companies. He said that the new clause was a major part of the package of aids and incentives for these companies.

Mr. Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab.) said that he was sceptical about the success of enterprise zones and feared they would only attract private speculation and speculation. He said that he was sceptical about the success of enterprise zones and feared they would only attract private speculation and speculation.

## Colleges of education to be merged

## SCOTLAND

Mr. John Mackay (Argyll, C) asked the Secretary of State for Scotland about his decision to merge Craiglockhart College of Education with another institution. He said that he was concerned about the merger of the two colleges. He said that he was concerned about the merger of the two colleges.

## Prescribing must be economic

It was of the utmost importance that the pharmaceutical industry should be encouraged to produce drugs economically, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during a question on the cost of drugs. He said that it was of the utmost importance that the pharmaceutical industry should be encouraged to produce drugs economically.

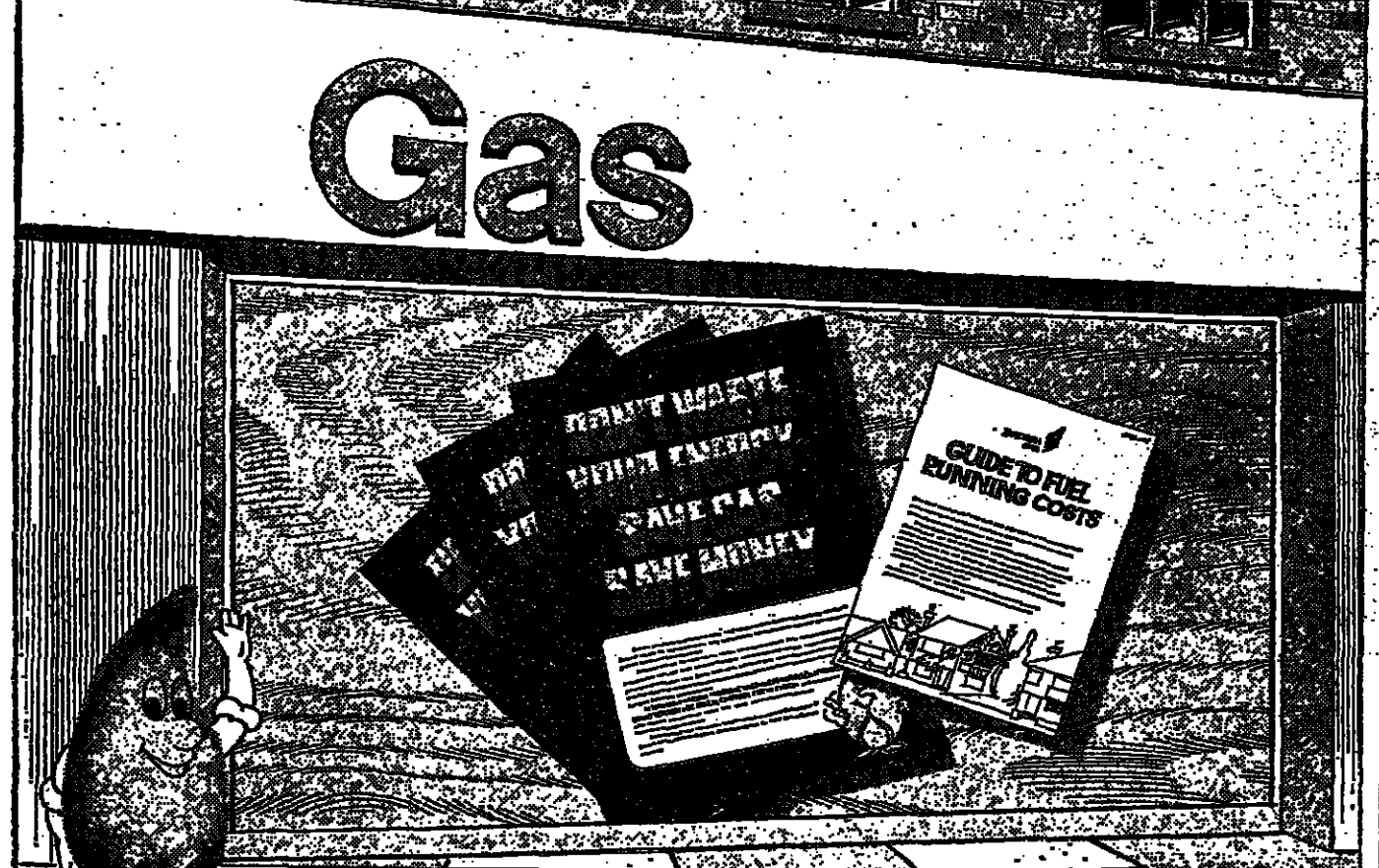
## NHS helped by private hospitals

No health authority in the country had yet invoked the law because they felt private hospital development was likely to prejudice the services of the NHS, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said. He said that no health authority in the country had yet invoked the law because they felt private hospital development was likely to prejudice the services of the NHS.

## Visitors to pay for health care

The British public demanded that visitors should pay for health care, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said. He said that the British public demanded that visitors should pay for health care. He said that the British public demanded that visitors should pay for health care.

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## Ministers to get extra pay rise

## HOUSE OF LORDS

There had long been a special problem over the salaries of ministers in the House of Lords because unlike their colleagues in the Commons they did not receive any salary. The House of Lords had been asked to consider the issue. The House of Lords had been asked to consider the issue.

## Treasury fingers in till

The Forestry Bill was more directed to getting the Treasury's fingers into the till, Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, said in a written reply. He said that the Forestry Bill was more directed to getting the Treasury's fingers into the till.

## Race attack survey out in July

A survey of the incidence of racial attacks by members of one racial group on another which was being conducted in the United Kingdom and Wales, would be completed by the middle of July, Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said at question time. He said that the survey would be completed by the middle of July.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Education Bill, remaining clauses. Select Committee: Foreign Affairs, Supply and Estimates. Evidence from Foreign Office (10.30). Scottish Affairs, Youth unemployment. Evidence from Scottish Office (10.30). Industry and Trade, European air fares. Evidence from Lord Cullen and officials (10.45). Evidence from A.A. (11.15) and RAC (11.30). County of Kent Bill (10.30). Standing Committee: Forestry and Counterfeiting Bill (10.30). Northern Ireland (10.30). Supreme Court Bill (11.30). Lords (2.30): Debate on the Environment. Evidence from EEC officials on consultation with employees of undertakings with complex structures (11.1).

## Homes for the elderly

The Government will issue a consultation document on registration of private and voluntary homes for the elderly, and the summer recess of Parliament, Mr. George Young, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, (Ealing, Action, C) announced during questions. He said that the Government would issue a consultation document on registration of private and voluntary homes for the elderly.

## Import deposits rejected

Certain payments, including those for imports of oil, are exempted from the measure on British (or other countries') exports to increase their Italian market price by possibly 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent, Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, said in a written reply. He said that certain payments, including those for imports of oil, are exempted from the measure on British (or other countries') exports to increase their Italian market price by possibly 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

## Private Bills

The Peterborough Development Corporation Bill and the Preston Council Bill were read a second time.



## Writers demand a better deal from publishers

By Kenneth Gosling, Arts Reporter

Britain's writers, angered by what they see as growing chaos in the publishing industry, launched a campaign yesterday through their two main representative bodies, the Writers' Guild and the Society of Authors, to secure a minimum terms agreement. It is one of the most significant moves in recent years to improve their conditions.

The Guild and the society, which held a press conference to discuss the 26-clause document, are seeking joint talks with the Publishers' Association, which meets tomorrow, they want the association to agree to represent their members in negotiating new terms. If it decides not to do so, the two writers' groups will begin immediate approaches to individual companies. The terms of the agreement are negotiable and the two groups said they would very much regret action against isolated houses that rejected discussions out of hand.

They refused to say what sanctions may be taken; but they took 10 months of industrial action against W. H. Allen and Star Books, and agreements were signed last month by both publishers.

The aim of the agreement, they said, was not to make unreasonable demands on publishers but to secure fair basic terms for writers. They are minimum terms and do not prevent authors or agents from negotiating better terms.

Mr. H. R. F. Keating, one of the authors at yesterday's conference, said: "This is something publishers ought to feel able to accept. We are not making tremendous demands, but asking for what the good publishers have been doing already."

Miss Eva Fikes, the writer, commented: "The author is a very vulnerable cottage worker; some are able to call the tune, but the majority of writers are not in that situation. Publishers are used to picking them off."

Miss Eva Fikes: "Authors are very vulnerable."

### £295,000 CRASH CLAIM SETTLED

Mr Justice Cantley ruled in the High Court yesterday that Mr Roderick Henderson, a rowing champion, must bear most of the blame for a car crash in which Mr Carry McMillan, his friend and former teammate, was paralysed.

He said Mr Henderson, of Waterloo Road, Bedford, was liable for 85 per cent of the agreed damages of £295,000. Mr Henderson was driving his car when it collided with a lorry

## Split vote in Bishop of London's election

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Dr Graham Leonard has been elected by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral to be the next Bishop of London. The Dean, the Very Rev Alan Webster, said yesterday that the election took place on June 3 and was by a majority.

No announcement to the press had been issued concerning the election, but a formal statement had been on public display by the main door at St Paul's, he said. The election was announced by the Church Information Office yesterday, when notice was given that the formal confirmation ceremony is to take place on July 20.

That is the occasion on which Dr Leonard becomes Bishop of London, although his enthronement will not be until September 21.

The delay in the announcement of the election and the sparsity of information, no figures were given about the size of the majority, or whether the minority abstained or voted against, is an obvious sign that the Diocese of London has closed ranks in loyalty to Dr Leonard after the vigorous controversy that surrounded his selection.

Election by the dean and chapter is by custom unanimous, and there is never more than one candidate put forward by the Queen. There is some division of opinion in the Church about whether it is right, or discommensurate, for a chapter member to press his opposition to a candidate to the point of not voting for him.

Though there have been less than unanimous chapter elections before, including that of Dr Leonard's immediate predecessor, Dr Gerald Ellison, such dissent has usually been described as a protest against the selection procedure rather than against the individual concerned. Since Dr Ellison's appointment the procedure has been reformed with the introduction of the Crown Appointments Commission.

The controversy arose because Dr Leonard was not the commission's first choice and because when that became known a lobby was organized to persuade the Prime Minister to nominate him.

Dr Leonard, at present Bishop of Truro, was not present for the election but he has to attend the confirmation ceremony, in which the legal officers of the church satisfy themselves that the legalities have been observed.



At the eye of the storm: Life inside Borocourt and St Lawrence's as seen in the television documentary.

## Late changes in ATV mental hospitals film

By Nicholas Trimmis and Kenneth Gosling

ATV made last-minute changes yesterday to the documentary to its controversial programme *Silent Minority*, due to be shown tonight, after protests from health authorities that ran two of the three mental hospitals featured.

Sir George Young, Under-Secretary of State for Health, criticised the film as giving "a wholly unrepresentative picture of life in our mental handicap hospitals".

Berkshire Area Health Authority accused Mr Nigel Evans, the programme's director, of deliberate deceit in retaining reels of film when he knew patients' relatives had not given consent to them being shown.

It said a statement in the film that patients at the 400-bed Borocourt Hospital, near Hampton-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, had developed gangrene because infections were not treated "is simply not true". ATV said

last night that "the allegations had been removed". The health authority said it could find no words strong enough to condemn the behaviour of Mr Evans. His conduct was deliberately deceitful and showed a callous disregard for the feelings and the rights of patients and their relatives.

Mr Charles Denton, ATV's director of programmes, said last night there was no doubt the Borocourt hospital authorities were deceived by Mr Evans when he withheld certain film material from them. Before commissioning the film, ATV's head of documentaries had accepted this position.

Mr Denton said he was convinced the screening of the programme was in the public interest. Croydon Area Health Authority, which runs the 1,350-bed St Lawrence's Hospital at Caterham, said the film gave

"a totally wrong impression" that no training was given to residents to improve the quality of their lives.

In the case of Nicky, the epileptic pictured tied to a pillar, the authority conceded that such episodes had occurred, but said the film did not acknowledge that his condition had since improved.

Mr Alan Parrish, the divisional nursing officer at St Lawrence's said it was "absolute nonsense" that the boy had been restrained for four to five hours at a time. Normally such restraint would be for only 10 or 15 minutes.

Dr Geoffrey Harris, senior consultant at the hospital, said other patients were restrained from time to time but that was dictated by staff shortages. It was done to prevent severely disturbed patients harming themselves and others. One child at the hospital who had

## Detectives cleared of stealing raid cash

The second prosecution brought as a result of the Operation Countryman investigation into alleged police corruption in London failed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Two detectives from Tower Bridge police station, Det Sergeant Brian O'Leary, aged 38, and Det Constable Roy Leavers, aged 31, were cleared of stealing £18,000, part of the proceeds of a robbery. They were also acquitted of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Last month at the Central Criminal Court a detective inspector was cleared of trying to pervert justice by allegedly framing a known criminal for a large-scale robbery.

Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution, had alleged that Sergeant O'Leary, of Horse Lane, West Wickham, Kent, and Constable Leavers, of Magnolia Drive, Biggin Hill, Kent, turned to corruption while investigating a £500,000 robbery by armed men at Williams and Glyn's Bank in the City in September, 1977.

Leonard Roberts, a criminal, was looking after £30,000 of the stolen money. He claimed that the two detectives, having found the money hidden in a suitcase cleaner, stole £18,000 of it and told him they would charge him only with receiving the balance of £12,000.

The jury was told to examine Mr Roberts' evidence "with very great care".

The detectives, who consistently denied the allegations against them, had been under suspension for two and a half years.

**RAILMEN INJURED**  
Three railmen were in hospital last night with serious injuries after being struck by a freight train near Nuneaton, Trent Valley station, Warwickshire.

## Church of England's 'spiritual audit'

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

Representatives of 17 churches will begin a thorough examination next week of the Church of England's performance, with a brief to point out any uncomfortable truths that they may encounter during their inquiries.

The exercise, a kind of spiritual 'audit' of the Church of England, is part of the Partnership in Mission project for the Anglican Communion, which is based on the principle that each part of the communion must contribute to the health of the rest.

"mother church" of the Anglican Communion has submitted itself to the judgment of its daughter churches overseas.

At the Church of England's invitation, representatives of the Church of Scotland and of the Roman Catholic Church in England and in Belgium will also join the team, together with a member of a British "Black" church, and an English Baptist.

The churches of the Anglican Communion contributing to the exercise are from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the West

Indies and the United States. The team will be welcomed to England next Wednesday by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, and will then be briefed on the state of English society, on the state of Christianity in England, on the "particular ethos" of the Church of England itself, and on its structures and government.

The scope of the inquiry includes the General Synod, the Church Commissioners, as well as the important voluntary bodies.

## Bishop and divorcee marry

From Our Correspondent, Matlock

The Bishop Suffragan of Repton, the Right Rev Stephen Verney, has married a divorced woman.

The wedding ceremony took place in a Baptist chapel at Llandello, Dyfed, two weeks ago, and was conducted by the Baptist minister.

The bishop, aged 62, announced the news to a clergy conference at Swanwick, Derbyshire. He did not say then that his new wife, aged 38, was divorced. But later he disclosed that she had separated from

her first husband after a short marriage when she was a student.

The bishop said he believed marriage to be sacred. It was a belief he had often expressed. "But I think that all marriages fail to some extent."

The Bishop of Derby, the Right Rev Cyril Bowles, said that the Bishop of Repton had consulted him about his decision. There was no reason why he should not continue as a Church of England bishop. He has been a widower for seven years.

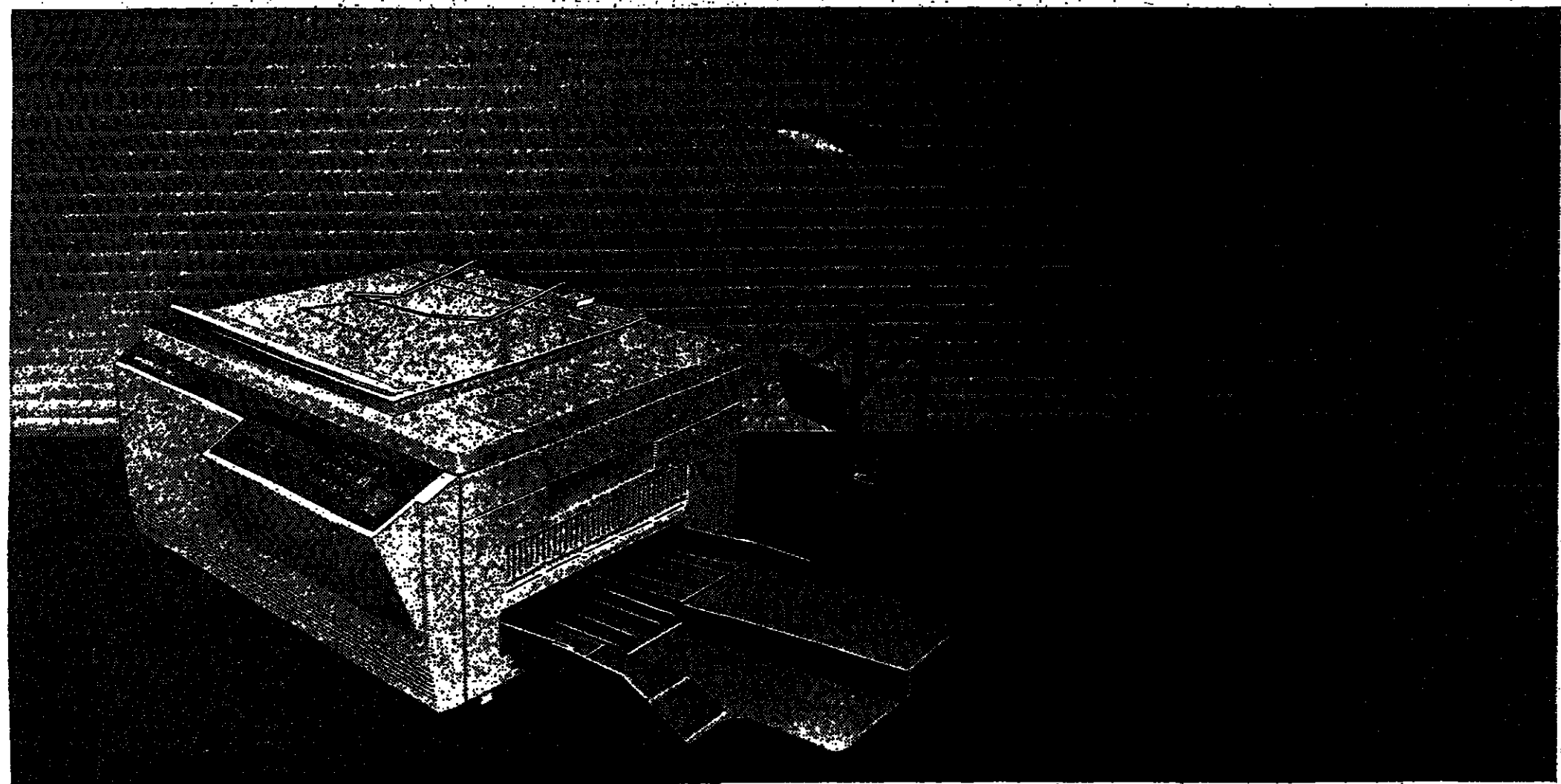
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# Thatcher condemns Israel for its unprovoked attack

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said in the Commons yesterday that she did not believe that Iraq had the capacity to make nuclear weapons.

With the firm support of most MPs on both sides of the House, she condemned "totally and utterly" the Israeli attack.

She emphasized that if there had been a similar attack on Israel, she would have condemned that in the same way.

Mrs Thatcher pointed out that Iraq was a signatory of the nuclear non-proliferation agreement and that the installation, 15 miles from Baghdad, had been inspected in February.

The only MP to attempt a justification of the Israeli raid was Mr. Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester, West. Mr Janner, president of the House of Deputies of British Jews, reminded her that Iraq would certainly have used nuclear weapons against Israel and asked if she did not feel a certain sense of relief that Baghdad would not have such a potential for some time to come.

She repeated her condemnation and reminded Mr Janner of her earlier words that there had been an attack on Israel she would totally and utterly have condemned it.

From the Conservative benches, Sir Hugh Fraser condemned any use of force but



Mr Begin confers with General Rafael Eitan, Army Chief of Staff

pointed out that over the past few years many MPs had drawn attention to the danger of the export by the last French government of enriched uranium to Iraq and of the threat to peace.

He hoped that Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, would take this opportunity of saying that there should be, in the Middle East, the possibility

of organizing prevention of the sale of offensive weapons.

The Prime Minister said that the high grade of uranium supplied to Iraq was the type necessary for the kind of research reactor that was being built. But she agreed that care should be taken over which countries were supplied with such uranium.

Mr Foot asked how many countries were able to manufacture nuclear weapons and how many were open to inspection by the international authority.

The Prime Minister said the Government firmly supported the non-proliferation treaty and wished that more countries would become signatories. The Government, she said, did not believe that at the moment Iraq

had the ability to manufacture nuclear material for nuclear weapons.

Another Conservative backbencher, Mr Dennis Walters, suggested that it was time "Begin's international gangsters were stopped" before he threatened peace, not only in the Middle East, but world peace as well. The Prime Minister told the House that

any attack of this kind must be condemned wherever it occurred and whoever carried it out.

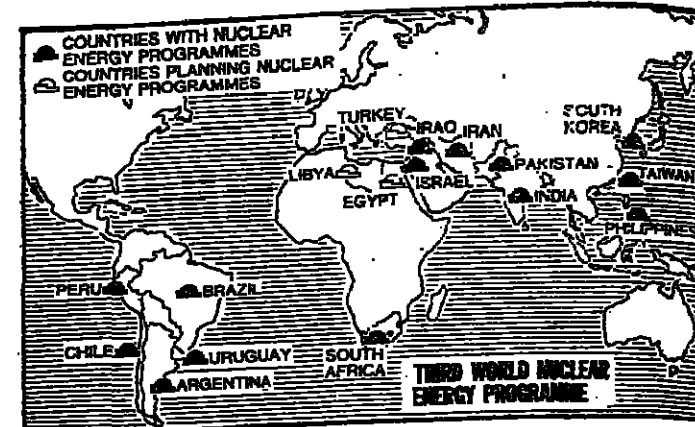
For the Social Democrats, Dr David Owen told the Prime Minister that she should reconsider her personal animosity to a comprehensive test, but positively role in the negotiations with the Soviet Union and the United States to ensure that the treaty was now endorsed.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, suggested that there was a lesson in this for the Western democracies in that they should be less cavalier in their export of nuclear technology.

Mrs Thatcher said it should not be thought that just because a country was trying to manufacture energy from nuclear sources that it was doing something totally wrong. Conservative and Labour backbenchers were last night signing a Commons motion condemning what they called an unprovoked attack and calling attention to the fact that Iraq had signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty while Israel had refused to do so (our Political Correspondent writes).

The motion continues: "This House... expresses its outrage at this latest Israeli aggression and expresses its deep concern that Mr Begin's military adventurism threatens not only Middle East but world peace."

The principal signatories were Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C), Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C), Mr Robert Hicks (Bodmin, C), Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley, East, Lab), and Mr Frank Hooley (Stoke Newington, Lab). Mr Walters is chairman of the Conservative Middle East Council.



## Safeguards fail to halt proliferation

By Our Foreign Staff

Nuclear weapons can be acquired either through a specific military programme dedicated to the production of bombs, or indirectly through a civilian nuclear energy programme which provides enough spare fissile material to make weapons.

The "Big Five" military nuclear powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China—have all obtained their military nuclear capability through a civilian nuclear programme which provides enough spare fissile material to make weapons.

International diplomacy to curb proliferation of nuclear weapons dates from December 1953 when President Eisenhower launched the Atoms for Peace programme. The United States hoped to persuade other countries not to join the military nuclear club in exchange for receiving technological help on civil nuclear programmes.

In fact, the Atoms for Peace programme spawned a worldwide nuclear technology that has made it much easier for developing countries to acquire a military potential than would have been the case had been denied the technological help in the first place.

The main accomplishment of the programme was the creation of a system of international safeguards supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) established in Vienna in 1957. The IAEA has monitored the arrangements for countries receiving technological help.

The next stage in non-proliferation was the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) signed in 1968. Eighty significant states—France, Argentina, Brazil, India, Israel, Pakistan, South Africa and China—have refused to sign the NPT mostly on the grounds that it discriminates against them by requiring existing military nuclear powers to reduce their own nuclear armories.

Of those eight, France had the largest nuclear arsenal, and under the terms of the treaty, though French assistance both to Israel and more recently to Iraq has caused some doubts about that undertaking.

There are 115 signatories to the treaty, and in Latin America its purpose has been reinforced by the Treaty of Tlatelolco (February 1967) which sought to limit nuclear weapons in that region, though that treaty is not likely to prevent the development of a weapons potential should they so decide.

The non-proliferation movement suffered several setbacks in the 1970s. The first was caused by India's explosion of a peaceful nuclear device which relied on Canadian plutonium. Concern at that explosion led to Canada putting an embargo on the export of uranium which included even Canada's allies.

The United States also passed its own Non-Proliferation Act (1978) which considerably tightened up its procedures for exporting nuclear technology. Secondly, the oil embargo in 1973/74, and the increased oil price, created much more international demand for nuclear energy programmes, coupled with concern that sufficient uranium to fuel all the reactors might not be available.

This led to a general assumption that plutonium fuel could be used as a substitute. Plutonium is a natural byproduct of nuclear reactions and can be removed by a relatively simple chemical process and then used in the explosive core of bombs. Weapons-grade uranium, on the other hand, is much rarer and harder to process.

The Saudis are going to exercise a restraining hand, therefore, at the Arab League meeting, although there are well be proposals to raise the price of oil for American consumption. Proposals of that nature will be defeated, of course, because the United States can avoid such pressure.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has already called for economic retaliation against Israel, but it has done so before, to no effect.

The Arabs possess the capacity for a military response against the two nuclear reactors and the plutonium processing plant at Dimona in the Negev desert.

Both Syria and Egypt have sent ground-to-ground missiles which could reach their target from Saudi Arabia or Egyptian Sinai. But Egypt has signed a peace treaty with Israel and the Saudis would never permit the Syrians to fire weapons from their territory.

The Iraqis could fly their own air strike against a Dimona if they received King Hussein's permission to refuel in Jordan. But Israel's air defence system is so efficient that not one Iraqi MiG jet would be likely to get within 50 miles of its target.

The Baghdad conference after noisy condemnations of the United States as well as the Arab League, and with inter-Arab suspicions and sharp over and its response to the Israeli attack blunted by political and military impotence.

## Iraq not making atom arms, Waldheim says

By Our Foreign Staff

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, condemned the attack as a violation of international law. He said in Tokyo yesterday that he was convinced the Iraqis had no intention of producing nuclear weapons.

He told journalists at the start of a four-day visit to Japan, that he could not accept Israel's argument that it was forced to make a preemptive strike against the plant to prevent Iraq from building nuclear weapons.

"With due respect to Israel we cannot accept the argument that Iraq was going to build a nuclear bomb. The plant was not even ready yet and in any event Iraq is a member of the non-proliferation treaty."

Dr Waldheim added that the raid was a very serious incident which could lead to far-reaching consequences.

"The situation in the Middle East is dangerous enough. First we had the missile crisis, then Lebanon and now this new incident has made things even more difficult."

He said: "I have given instruction that the Security Council should be convened by the end of the week because the raid should be considered a grave incident which could affect international peace and security."

**Arabs to decide on UN approach**

The United Nations Security Council is expected to meet on Friday to condemn the Israeli attack. The Iraqis asked for an immediate meeting yesterday but the word "immediate" has a different meaning in the United Nations from elsewhere. Diplomatic considerations make Friday the earliest likely date.

The Arabs wait to wait until after the Arab League meeting which begins in Baghdad tomorrow. Mr Sadat, Egyptian President, is expected to attend the council session.

Most delegates agree with Monday's statement by Dr Waldheim, the Secretary-General, that the raid has violated international law and "must be condemned". The most enraged of the Arabs would like to see sanctions imposed against Israel.

**Moscow blames Americans**

At Moscow: The Soviet Union accused the United States of inspiring the Israeli air raid. An official statement by Tass, clearly sanctioned at high level, also denied Israeli arguments that the Iraqi nuclear plant was intended to produce nuclear weapons when complete.

"This act of gangsterism is a link in the long chain of Tel Aviv's crimes of which the ruling circles of the United States of America are direct accomplices and, in effect, inspirers. Billions of dollars flow in a

continuous stream from the United States into the Israeli treasury to finance the Israeli aggression. The most modern military equipment, including the planes which bombed Baghdad, is bringing death and destruction to Arab towns and villages," the statement said.

**Raid will not affect supply of US arms**

Washington: The Administration here will decide very shortly whether Israel infringed American restrictions on the use of its military aircraft during Sunday's raid on the Iraqi nuclear power plant, a State Department spokesman said.

But even if Israel were found guilty of breaking American rules, the spokesman indicated that this would not affect sales of military equipment or other aspects of the close relationship between the two countries.

Shortly after the announcement of the raid by the Israelis yesterday, the United States Government condemned the attack and said that Tel Aviv might have violated American law which provides that military equipment is sold to Israel under condition that it be used only for defensive purposes.

Jerusalem: Three people died in the attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, Israeli military intelligence chief announced. General Yehoshua Saguy said: "Given the number of planes and bombs used, the attack only caused three deaths." The plant is staffed by 150 French technicians and 200 Italians.

**Middle East turmoil could be exploited**

Cairo: Egypt voiced its strong condemnation of Israel with an appeal to the United States and other peace-loving nations to force Israel to stop its violence and aggression in the region. It said that Israel would be responsible for the consequences of the dangerous escalation of tensions in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, however, senior Foreign Ministry sources said that Egyptian diplomatic action against Israel would not affect the scheduled visit here of Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's opposition leader.

In a statement to Parliament, Mr Kamel-Hassan Aly, deputy Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister, described the Israeli attack as irresponsible, unjustified and premeditated. He said the turmoil and area was wallowing in could be exploited by a foreign power plotting against the nations in the region.

Although he did not mention the Soviet Union by name, it was a clear reference to Moscow and in the keeping with Egypt's belief that unrest in the region increases Moscow's chances of encroaching on the oil-rich Gulf.



Dr Waldheim: condemned the Israeli attack as a clear violation of international law

Iran: Mr Muhammad Sadeghi, Iran's Labour Minister, yesterday rejected the Iraqi charge of Iranian complicity in Israel's attack on the Osirak reactor, and condemned the attack as aggression.

Speaking in Geneva, Mr Sadeghi said: "Fearing Iran will defeat Iraq and a new Iraqi government would join with Syria to support the Palestine people, Israel is buying time by seeming to help Iran in its war against Iraq."

President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr also condemned the attack. His statement reiterated "our irreconcilable opposition" to the Iraqi regime, but added: "our war against the aggressor does not deter the Muslim nation from strongly denouncing the Israeli air raid."

Saudi Arabia: The King's Cabinet called on Arab and Muslim countries to forget their differences and stand together against Israel. Mr Muhammad Abdo Yamani, the Information Minister, said the attack was "a clear violation of international law and a gross act of aggression."

Gulf States: The United Arab Emirates newspaper, Al-Wahda said it was "unthinkable that Washington could have no concern with the Israeli raid." The newspaper Al-Khaleej lamented the raid as "one of the most painful blows ever dealt the Arab world." The target had been an attempt to counter the Israeli superiority in nuclear technology.

Al-Bayan claimed that "Israel obtained a go-ahead signal from Washington before mounting the attack." It urged the Arabs to reconSIDer their friendly ties with Washington.

Sudan: Arab countries must overlook their differences and work out a united strategy to confront the Israeli enemy," Mr Muhammad Mirghani, the Foreign Minister, said in Khartoum. He condemned the "criminal attack" which was intended to destroy Arab development capabilities.

Explosions bore the hallmark of Israeli agents. On April 4, a three-man team landed at Byres airport, Toulon, after flying from Paris. In a hired car they drove to a villa where they were joined by four other agents.

The men spent 40 minutes trying to remove key parts from the Iraqi equipment. But they decided there was not enough time left before the guards returned and adopted a fallback plan: they set time bombs on the crucial parts and fled.

Both reactors were badly damaged and it was estimated at the time that this would set back Iraq's nuclear development by two years.

## France avoids saying it will rebuild reactor

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 9

France has vehemently condemned the Israeli raid which destroyed the larger of the two nuclear research reactors being built by French technicians in Iraq.

The condemnation is genuine and deeply felt, but more so since the only known casualty of the raid, Mr Damien Chaussepied, was an enterprising young French engineer, just 25 years old and fresh from university.

At the same time the seven year old nuclear cooperation treaty with Iraq, under whose terms the reactors have been built, is an agreement which President Mitterrand has criticized in the past and which has generally been disliked by the Socialist Party.

Only last Friday, M Georges Sarra, president of the Socialist group in the Paris city council, said in a radio interview in Jerusalem: "The supply of enriched uranium to Iraq carries with it a serious danger for the security of Israel and for peace in the Middle East. Iraq must not be given the possibility of obtaining the nuclear weapon."

At the same time, Mr Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, said during a radio debate yesterday as unacceptable and very serious, which complicated an already explosive situation. However, he was slow to answer just what is to happen next.

Any request which could be made by Iraq to impose sanctions on Israel and to replace the destroyed reactor would be studied, he said. Moreover, some problems had already been posed by this nuclear reactor. We have the will not only to conduct an armaments policy, but to reinforce the control of nuclear reactors."

The cooperation agreement, he said, now had to be seen to be studied, not only against the background of "this unacceptable Israeli raid" but equally against the policies which the Government intended to follow.

On the one hand France intended to respect its contracts with Iraq and might even face difficulties for French oil supplies.

A Franco-Egyptian nuclear energy cooperation agreement was approved yesterday by the Egyptian Parliament. Under its terms, drawn up last March, France had undertaken to supply two 1,000MW nuclear power stations.

After such a raid, Mr Mauroy said, it was clear that unforeseen results would follow.

**Saudis to urge restraint at Baghdad meeting**

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, June 9

Foreign minister from 13 Arab League Nations will meet in Baghdad in two days to formulate what they hope will be a United Arab response to the Israeli attack.

But the Arab world is at present so divided that the possibility of the league voting for some form of military retaliation is virtually non-existent.

Arab nations have been united in one thing since the news of the raid was made public yesterday: that the United States bears the primary responsibility for the air strike since it permitted its aircraft to be used in the mission.

After the repeated Israeli attacks on Palestinian guerrilla targets and Lebanese villages, the United States' expressions of deep concern over Israel's action have had little effect in the Arab world.

Saudi Arabia, in particular, is incensed that Israel should fly over its territory to attack the Iraqi reactor. Arab diplomats here say that Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, was actually flying to Riyadh last night on the next leg of his mission when the Saudis



A French technician working at a nuclear plant

The Saudis are going to exercise a restraining hand, therefore, at the Arab League meeting, although there are well be proposals to raise the price of oil for American consumption. Proposals of that nature will be defeated, of course, because the United States can avoid such pressure.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has already called for economic retaliation against Israel, but it has done so before, to no effect.

The Arabs possess the capacity for a military response against the two nuclear reactors and the plutonium processing plant at Dimona in the Negev desert.

Both Syria and Egypt have sent ground-to-ground missiles which could reach their target from Saudi Arabia or Egyptian Sinai. But Egypt has signed a peace treaty with Israel and the Saudis would never permit the Syrians to fire weapons from their territory.

The Iraqis could fly their own air strike against a Dimona if they received King Hussein's permission to refuel in Jordan. But Israel's air defence system is so efficient that not one Iraqi MiG jet would be likely to get within 50 miles of its target.

The Baghdad conference after noisy condemnations of the United States as well as the Arab League, and with inter-Arab suspicions and sharp over and its response to the Israeli attack blunted by political and military impotence.

## Mossad's secret war against nuclear threat

By Ronald Payne and Christopher Dobson

Israel has a history of responding vigorously to any prospect of nuclear blackmail, sometimes carrying out a military strike, as in the raid on the Osirak reactor, and sometimes using clandestine methods.

In the 1960s, when President Nasser hired a team of German scientists to develop long-range rockets, capable of showing Israel with direct atomic waste, the project was seen as a threat to the Jewish state. One of the main tasks of the Israeli Secret Service, Mossad, has been to penetrate Iraq's nuclear secrets and to do all in

its power to delay progress. In 1974, the newly-elected President, Giscard d'Estaing sent his Mr Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister, to Baghdad to negotiate the nuclear deal. A year later Mr Chirac showed President Sadat Hussein round the French nuclear centre at Cadarache and contracts were later signed.

France was to provide two reactors originally named Isis and Osiris, but later because of the Egyptian connection, and in view of President Hussein's dislike of President Sadat, the names were changed to Tamuz 1 and Tamuz 11. Also provided was 168lb of uranium enriched to 93 per cent.

The Israeli calculation was that this could be made up to

97 per cent weapon-grade fuel enabling Iraq to make six Hiroshima strength bombs. It must not be forgotten that the Israelis had direct experience of French atomic negotiations.

In 1957 Mr Shimon Peres had signed a secret agreement with the French Government which supplied them with a reactor established at Dimona in the Negev which made it possible for the Israelis to prepare an estimated 15 nuclear weapons.

The first known attack on Iraq's potential was in April 1979 when saboteurs blew up the Osirak reactor at La Seyne-sur-Mer where it awaited shipment.

Intelligence sources in Paris said at the time that those

explosions bore the hallmark of Israeli agents. On April 4, a three-man team landed at Byres airport, Toulon, after flying from Paris. In a hired car they drove to a villa where they were joined by four other agents.

The men spent 40 minutes trying to remove key parts from the Iraqi equipment. But they decided there was not enough time left before the guards returned and adopted a fallback plan: they set time bombs on the crucial parts and fled.

Both reactors were badly damaged and it was estimated at the time that this would set back Iraq's nuclear development by two years.

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## French refusal to return Basques angers Spaniards

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, June 9

Spain has been angered by remarks made by M. Pierre Mauroy, France's new Prime Minister, interpreted by officials here as a rejection of Spain's demand for the extradition of one of the most wanted Basque terrorists.

The wave of annoyance threatens to cast a shadow over the visit, expected this weekend, of M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, to Madrid.

Relations have been poor between the two countries since President Giscard d'Estaing slowed Spain's EEC entry negotiations last year. But Madrid was hoping for a marked improvement, especially in the fight against ETA terrorism, which is so crucial in deciding the Spanish military's attitude towards democracy.

As soon as M. Mauroy's remarks upholding France's tradition as a land of asylum were made in a radio broadcast, were known here last night, Señor José Pedro Pérez Llorca, the Foreign Minister, summoned the French Ambassador to a meeting which went on 90 minutes.

Afterwards the minister said the prospect was enormously grave if France did not agree to extradite Señor Tomas Linaza, 24-year-old Basque, accused by the Spanish police of participation in a bomb attack which killed six members of the Civil Guard last year.

What has especially angered the Spanish Government is that the Linaza case is unusual, a well documented and that last week a Paris court upheld the

extradition petition on the ground that the terrorist had committed criminal offences. The Linaza case is only one among a dozen similar extradition demands involving Basque terrorists.

Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Justice Minister, immediately called in his chief aides and threatened to revise the extradition treaty between the two countries. He noted angrily that in four years France had never once agreed to Spain's extradition demands, whereas it had to those of Britain, West Germany and Italy.

Refusal to hand over Basques to Spain would indicate that the new Socialist Government is anxious to repolish France's somewhat tarnished image as a land of political sanctuary (Jan Murray writes from Paris). In recent years extradition has almost automatically followed a court recommendation—the one exception being that of a Basque militant in 1979.

In refusing extradition the French Government can claim to be honouring the 1877 Franco-Spanish convention, which agreed there should be no handing over of political militants between the two countries.

In the Basque question there is also a practical issue. Basques in France are largely militant only at a cultural level, but should the Government agree to extradite people wanted in Spain, there is a real danger of the terrorism spreading into France.

## Namibia parties ready to listen to Western plan

From Eric Marsden, Johannesburg, June 9

Most of Namibia's internal political parties are willing to listen to the details of the new Western plan for the territory which will be put there on Friday by Mr. William Clark, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, and Dr. Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State-designate. Party meetings were held today in preparation for the meeting with the American visitors.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, which has a big majority in the Namibia National Assembly and runs the internal government, met for several hours, as did the Namibia Independence Party and the Swapo Democrats—a breakaway group from the South-West African People's Organisation which seeks a constitutional settlement and does not support the guerrilla war.

Mr. Andreas Shipanga, leader of the Swapo Democrats, indicated that his party would listen to proposals for amendments to United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, which has been the basis for negotiations but is now rejected by the DTA and South Africa. Mr. Shipanga said the resolution was "made by man and is not holy writ".

Mrs. Orlie Abrahamson of the NIP said her party was grateful to the United States for seeking constitutional guarantees for minority rights but she added that particular population groups should not be singled out for protection by such safeguards.

Mr. Eben van Zijl of the Akur Party, which still controls the old white legislature, said his party had been invited to meet the Americans and would "play it by ear" and give its own views on the Namibia problem. Mr. Sarel Becker of the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party said it had not yet been decided whether to meet Mr. Clark and his team.

The Americans will not see any representatives of the mainstream Swapo movement in Windhoek because there are no longer any "above ground".

The mission is due to arrive in Cape Town tomorrow night and will leave Thursday to talk with Mr. R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, and other ministers. The Americans are expected to meet Mr. P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, before flying to Windhoek on Friday.

They will find the two Bothas and their colleagues fully briefed on the military as well as political situation, as the entire cabinet returned on Monday from a secret visit to the operational areas. The ministers also met Mr. Denis Hough, the Administrator of South-West Africa (Namibia).

Though the shortness of the visit means that it will be devoted almost entirely to the future of Namibia, the South African ministers may take the opportunity to express their concern over the effects of the documents leaked in Washington on the talks last month between Mr. R. F. Botha and Dr. Crocker.

The disclosure of one of these documents, in particular, could prove a costly embarrassment to Pretoria. It refers to the dispute between the United States and South Africa over the suspension of supplies of American enriched uranium to South Africa because of its refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The document points out that if the scheduled date—March, 1982—for initial fuel loading for the Koeberg reactor near Cape Town is not met, the delay could be very costly.

It also explains the South African stand on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and makes it clear that the Government wants to "keep potential attackers nervous" about South Africa's nuclear capabilities.

## LAGOS ACTS TO HALT SPRINGBOKS

From Karam Thapar, Lagos, June 9

The Nigerian Government is to take immediate steps to get the September conference of Commonwealth finance ministers moved from New Zealand because of the South African Springboks rugby tour scheduled to begin next month.

Announcing this last night, the Nigerian Foreign Office said: "In the name of all that is good, the federal Government of Nigeria appeals this day to the Government of New Zealand to take every possible step to stop the tour."

## Hijacker is hanged

From our correspondent Islamabad, June 9

Nadir Ahmad, a Pakistani convicted by a summary military court of attempting to hijack a Pakistani aircraft in January, 1978, was hanged today in the district jail of Khairpur in Sindh province.

This was the second execution for such an offence. The death sentence for hijacking is provided under martial law.

Three young men belonging to Al-Zulfikar, an organization loyal to the memory of Mr. Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, are wanted by Pakistan on a charge of hijacking a Pakistani airliner in March,



The Prince of Wales and President Mitterrand of France at their meeting in the Elysée Palace yesterday when the French President confirmed that he would attend next month's Royal wedding in London.

## French electoral battle

### Chirac becomes the leader of the right

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 9

While President François Mitterrand expresses confidence that the "state of grace" from which he predicted during his election campaign to benefit if victory came his way will last for several months, M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, is expressing equal confidence—in public at least—that the outgoing majority will win the general election on June 14 and 21.

The last opinion polls before the first ballot—there is a ban on their publication in the week preceding the polls—all point to a victory of the left, and one even to an absolute majority of the Socialists and Left-Wing Radicals alone in the new National Assembly. But M. Chirac's cast-iron optimism remains unimpaired. He is using the same recipe as in 1978. And he reminded the participants of a Press Club broadcast on Europe No. 1 over the weekend that he had been proved right then, when polls and prognosticators all predicted the majority's defeat.

For M. Chirac, the "state of grace" enjoyed by President Mitterrand is already beginning

to wear off. "If François Mitterrand had waited another fortnight to call these elections, he had every chance of losing them," he said. "Confidence has been lost as much on the national as on the international plane."

It was the task of the Union for the New Majority, of Gaullists and Giscardians, to restore it by winning the election.

He probably does not really believe that the outgoing majority can win the election. But it can consolidate itself for the future. He has hurried himself into the electoral battle with undiminished zest and energy, scouring the country by aircraft and by helicopter, holding anything up to half a dozen meetings a day, and whipping up the flagging energies and enthusiasms of the Gaullist militants.

He has succeeded within a month since the presidential election in imposing himself as the uncommitted leader of the right. M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who, like the Bourbons, seems to have lost nothing and forgotten nothing, has for the foreseeable future

been forced off the political stage, and M. Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister, has not yet decided to make his entrance upon it, save in a small way as a candidate in his constituency of Lyons. The Giscardians have no one who is a match for M. Chirac, and they consequently cling to him as the only man who can check, if not swing, the Socialist tide.

The most potent argument used by M. Chirac and the outgoing majority is that if the Socialists and their Communist allies won the parliamentary election, France would be entirely delivered to the domination of the left. It already controls the presidency, and the premiership, two-thirds of the municipalities of more than 30,000 inhabitants, and the trade unions. France, he says, would then be promised the joys of collectivism and economic and financial catastrophe. But with a return to Parliament of the outgoing majority, President Mitterrand would be compelled to compromise over the Socialist and collectivist doctrine.

The only trouble about that

argument is that for the past 23 years, the Gaullists have been using it against the left, on the ground that a parliamentary majority which was at odds with the presidential one would lead sooner or later to deadlock and to a constitutional crisis.

M. Chirac denies that he is gambling on disaster in order to further his political ambitions. He declares that he is ready to strike a working compromise with the President, provided the Socialists break with the Communists, and shelve their plans for further nationalizations.

M. Chirac and the Union for the New Majority have another point when they insist on the vagueness of the new Government's declared intentions on a number of fundamental issues which, they argue, amounts to asking the voters to sign a blank cheque.

The participation of the Communists in the reshuffled Government is one of them, although M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, made it clear last week that this was unlikely

## Peking may launch invasion of Vietnam

From David Benayia, Peking, June 9

The growing number of Chinese reports about Vietnamese military attacks on border areas of southern China suggests that another full-scale armed conflict between the two countries is in the offing.

As in 1978, the frequency and seriousness of such reports has been building up over recent months. If the comparison is accurate, the likelihood of another "self-defensive counter-attack", as China called its invasion of Vietnam in 1979, is considerable.

The latest attack reported by the Chinese side was said to be at battalion strength, in the Fakashan area of the border between Vietnam and China's south-western region of Guangxi.

The Vietnamese troops are said to have attacked Chinese frontier guards in several places after a heavy artillery barrage. There were no reports of Chinese casualties, but the report said the Vietnamese retreated when fire was returned, "leaving bodies and weapons".

There is a limit to the number of such attacks, such strength which the Chinese Government can report with out being seen to retaliate on the ground.

The possibility of another war

with Vietnam is fraught with political implications. Peking has little chance of effectively helping the new anti-Vietnam front in Cambodia proposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, former head of state.

The insurgent forces in Cambodia seem too weak and too divided politically to have a serious chance of defeating the Phnom Penh Government backed by the Vietnamese Army. The only effective measure open to China is to harass the Vietnamese on their northern borders and possibly in Laos.

The internal political situation in China also suggests there will be another attack on Vietnam, though the onset of the rainy season may delay it until the autumn. The People's Liberation Army has shown growing unrest over the liberal social and economic reforms put into effect by Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the leading vice-chairman of the Communist Party.

A fight with the Vietnamese would give the Chinese armed forces something else to think about, especially since they need to recoup the prestige they lost through the 1979 invasion, which was hardly a dazzling success.

## Australian phones off

From Douglas Aiton Melbourne, June 9

Australia is on the brink of a communications breakdown after the failure today of negotiations to end the strike by employees of Telecom, the Government-owned telephone service.

If the deadlock continues, chaos will result, and already the effects of the dispute have spread from inter-state telephone services to Telex and computer communications.

The breakdown is a result of intervention by the Government in the dispute between Telecom and the two unions representing its 50,000 employees. After some weeks of bargaining, Telecom offered its employees rises of up to A\$32 (£17.70) a week.

This was accepted by the unions but the federal Government is not happy

## STATE MPs PUNISHED IN NIGERIA

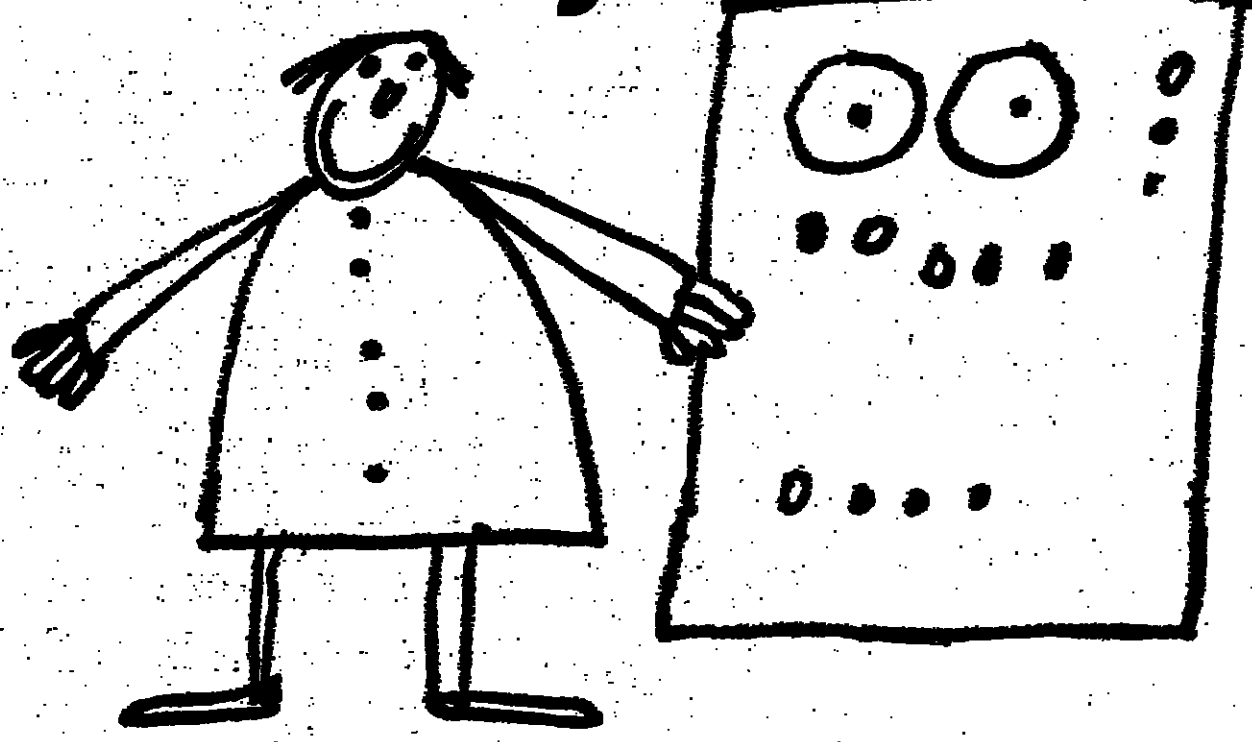
From Our Correspondent Lagos, June 9

The Speaker and deputy speaker of the Nigerian House of Representatives had yesterday a motion of no confidence passed against them by 36 against 12 votes. They were given 24 hours to resign. Both officials have been accused of incompetence, fraud, abuse of power and embezzlement.

In the Lagos state assembly, a legislator was punished by the Speaker for unparliamentary language and obnoxious behaviour by having to stand until the end of the day's debate.

In Kaduna state, impeachment proceedings against the state Governor have started with the swearing in of an independent panel to investigate charges including allegations of favouritism and felony.

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## Australian policy switch upsets Asean

From David Watts, Singapore, June 9

Mr. Anthony Street, the Australian Foreign Minister, did his best today to paper over a sizable rift in foreign policy cooperation between Canberra and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) over Cambodia.

The cornerstone of Asean's Cambodia policy is to maintain the United Nations seat in the ousted Democratic Kampuchea (DK) government while it uses all diplomatic and political means to force the Vietnamese to withdraw their troops.

But having ceased to recognize the DK Government in February, Australia has now decided it will no longer always vote for it at the United Nations. This contrasts with Britain and the United States

which continue to give their support despite having withdrawn recognition.

Mr. S. S. Rajaratnam, Singapore's second deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for Foreign Affairs, expressed the anger of Singapore when he told a local newspaper soon after Mr. Street's arrival last Saturday that Australia's stance would "certainly damage the foreign policy interests of Australia, seriously question its credibility as a reliable ally of those who have taken up the Soviet challenge in South-East Asia and bring comfort to the Vietnamese".

Mr. Rajaratnam, like others in Asean, fears that the position adopted by Australia seriously undermines the efforts to main-

tain a DK government, the alternative being a vacuum, which would almost certainly result in the seating of the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin regime.

Mr. Street said today, however, that Australia still strongly supported Asean's efforts and the United Nations resolution of last year which called for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and for United Nations-monitored elections in Cambodia.

It was important to reassure Asean, and like-minded countries, that Australia's derecognition of the DK government was not one step in the process that would lead to some form of recognition of the Heng Samrin government.



# Bani-Sadr loses the battle for Tehran's streets

From Tony Alloway, Tehran, June 9

Muslim extremists and Revolutionary Guards today after the second day of clashes with supporters of President Bani-Sadr.

Many injuries were reported as supporters of the left-wing Islamic Mujahidin Khala organization, which backs the President in his struggle with Muslim fundamentalists, tried to rally for a protest demonstration in the afternoon.

Wherever they appeared large bands of "Hezbollahis", or followers of the Party of God, charged at them with an assortment of weapons and a shower of stones. Revolutionary Guards armed with rifles and sub-machine guns backed them up, firing often into the air to deter the would-be demonstrators.

By the end of the afternoon the Hezbollahis were in full control, parading round Revolution and Martyrs Squares, where the Mujahidin had planned to gather, and shouting slogans in support of Ayatollah Khomeini and the fundamentalist clergy. Watching them were many of the frustrated Mujahidin, including young girls in their customary blue headscarves.

They had to listen as the Hezbollahis shouted "death to Bani-Sadr" and "this is the time for Bani-Sadr's destruction".

The Mujahidin called the demonstration to protest at the closure of the President's newspaper, in defiance of a ban yesterday on all such demonstrations by Ayatollah Khomeini. Today the state radio repeatedly warned listeners of the ban and the Central Security Committee

## All masonic documents are seized in Italy

From Peter Nichols, Rome, June 9

Investigators inquiring into the P2 masonic scandal today ordered the seizing of all files and documents dealing with the full membership of freemasonry throughout the whole country.

General Ennio Battelli, the Grand Master of the Order of Italy, confirmed the decision tonight and added bitterly that "an effort was being made to involve the whole of freemasonry because of the lack of a dozen or so people".

It is understood that some 18,000 files have been sequestered. Total membership is estimated to be between 15,000 and 18,000. The Grand Master has taken the view from the beginning of the scandal that the P2 affair was the result of the activities of Signor Licio Gelli and had virtually no connection with official freemasonry. Signor Gelli is in hiding to escape charges of espionage. The scandal broke when lists of alleged members of his P2 group were published and were shown to include members of the last Government, leading figures in the armed forces and the secret services as well as journalists and writers.

The Government fell as a result of the publication of the list. Admiral Giovanni Torrisi, the head of the armed forces, as well as the commanders of the two intelligence services and the civilian coordinator of intelligence, have all gone on leave.

Yesterday, a further 15 generals and admirals were sent on leave, including six army generals, five from the air, and four from the navy. Today, a further set of documents found by the police in the home of Signor Gelli were published. They do not appear to add any substantive new information not contained in the famous lists found in Signor Gelli's villa in Arezzo.

Signor Arnaldo Forlani, who led the Government brought down by the P2 scandal, today continued his consultations in an attempt to form a new administration. He saw representatives of the Republican Party tonight.

He has been instructed by President Pertini to make every effort to put together a new coalition. The President is said to be deeply anxious about the continuous deepening of the scandal while other urgent problems, such as the economy, the currency and terrorism, also require a decisive handling.

# Argentine President under pressure from parties

From Andrew McLeod, Buenos Aires, June 9

The government of President Viola, which faces a crisis of confidence over Argentina's deteriorating economy, has been approached by political parties which it is reported, have promised their support in return for economic changes, a plan to restore democracy and a solution to human rights problems.

Early this month, the peso was devalued by 30 per cent in order to halt a rush on the dollar and a drain on foreign reserves. The move came after devaluations of 30 per cent in April and 10 per cent in February.

But the measures announced by Señor Lorenzo Sigau, the new Minister of the Economy, have failed to have the desired effect. Interest rates remain high and the drain on reserves is continuing.

The economy is feeling the strain of large dollar debts built up under the previous Government when liberal open-market policies and an overvalued peso were expected to help industry to modernize.

The new economic team has come under criticism in most of the Argentine press. The English-language *Buenos Aires Herald* called for the economic team's replacement "by one man who has the authority necessary to persuade the population that he knows what he is doing".

The conservative *La Prensa* says that Señor Sigau has done exactly the opposite of what he has promised. It predicts further devaluation within 30 or 60 days and an inflation rate of 200 per cent by the end of the year.

But the Government's problems are not restricted to economy. Divisions within the armed forces and a strained relationship between President Viola and General Leopoldo Galtieri, the Army's commander-in-chief, and a member of the three-man military junta, have contributed to confusion over who is really running the country.

Rumours have been rife that the days of the Government which took office two and a half months ago, are numbered. The *Buenos Aires Herald* last week received an anonymous telephone call saying that a coup headed by General Benjamin Menéndez, a right-wing nationalist, would install a "popular government".

In Peronista circles, General Antonio Domingo Bussi, commander of the First Army Corps stationed in Buenos Aires province, who is a right-winger with populist leanings, is tipped to become the President's successor. General Viola is deposed by the military junta, General Bussi crushed the

rural guerrilla movement in the northern province of Tucumán in 1975 and 1976, and carried out an extensive rural modernization programme there.

He would have the support of the peronistas, if not of all the other political parties said to be involved in a proposed "pact" with the armed forces. These parties include the well-organized radicals and the Industrial Development Movement.

It is not clear, however, whether Señor María Estela Martínez de Perón, deposed as President by the military in March 1976, is prepared to give her approval. She has been held a prisoner of the military regime since her overthrow.

The Industrial Development Movement already has a foothold within the Government in the shape of Señor Oscar Camilión, the Foreign Minister. The movement favours protectionist economic measures.

Other conditions, the political parties are reported to have presented to the Government in return for their support are a solution to the problem of human rights—an estimated 15,000 people are believed to have disappeared since 1975—a trimming of the military budget and the sale of state-owned firms.

Trade unions, faced by rapidly mounting unemployment, have given their tacit approval to the political parties' proposals by refraining from strike action.

President Viola is said to be keen on resolving the problem of the *desaparecidos* (missing people) as soon as possible, but the military junta made it clear soon after he assumed office that the armed forces had no intention of accelerating the pace of liberalization.

## Mugabe pledge to aid Swapo's struggle

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, June 9

Zimbabwe has served notice on South Africa that it intends to do what it can, short of allowing guerrillas to use its territory for forays against South Africa, to further the cause of nationalist movements fighting Pretoria's forces.

Speaking at the end of Zimbabwe's week of solidarity with the South-West African People's Organization (Swapo) Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said that though this policy might bring South Africa's wrath down on his country, Zimbabwe would survive.

In an interview with a journalist from the South African Argus group of newspapers who questioned him on the tension between the two countries, Mr. Mugabe said: "If South Africa decided to topple us, we would suffer. But we would get through the suffering".

Zimbabwe's support for nationalist movements such as Swapo is becoming an increasingly contentious regional issue. Mr. P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, was reported in Salisbury today as saying that countries which harboured enemies of South Africa would eventually be hurt.

Mr. Mugabe said that Zimbabwe was entitled to provide nationalist movements with facilities to pursue their political objectives, and was expected to do so by the Organization of African Unity, but that it would not allow them to establish military bases.

"We have stuck to this and South Africa should be the first to recognize that," particularly as it was itself training Zimbabwean nationalists for action north of the Limpopo.

Mr. Mugabe gave no indication that the African National Congress would be allowed to open an office in Salisbury but said that it should make a request for an office, it would be considered.

Hinting that Zimbabwe was in a position to take economic reprisals against hostile South African action, he said: "There are investments here which belong to South Africa. If it is a rough game, it will be rough all the way through," but he hoped it would not come to that.

Earlier, during a week-long visit by Mr. Sam Nujoma, the Swapo President, Mr. Mugabe said that in addition to political and moral support, Zimbabwe was giving Swapo military assistance in the form of money channelled through the OAU Liberation Committee.

Mr. Nujoma left for Zambia yesterday having addressed a series of rallies throughout Zimbabwe which were well attended.

The visit, which also raised money for Swapo's cause, has been a morale-booster for the organization, which has suffered severe losses over the past year in the Namibia war.

## Peaceful start to school boycott

Cape Town, June 9.—Pupils boycotted classes at several Coloured (mixed race) schools in Cape Town and Johannesburg today but police said the situation was quiet.

The boycotts were called by Coloured student representatives meeting in Cape Town at the weekend to demand an end to police brutality and call for the reinstatement of thousands of pupils expelled after widespread student unrest last year in which 40 people died.

Last year's protests centred on inequalities in the country's racially divided school system.

In Johannesburg, scene of two days of clashes with police last week, pupils at several schools refused to enter their classrooms today. One school in Johannesburg and a number in Cape Town reported a complete boycott. Others said attendance was between 50 and 60 per cent.

The latest student protest preceded by a week the fifth anniversary of a widespread riot in black townships sparked by an education protest in Soweto in which hundreds died.

Mid-year examinations at a number of secondary schools in the area north of Cape Town, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, have been postponed.

Last night, 2,000 students at the Coloured University of the Western Cape voted to boycott lectures for the rest of the week in protest against police brutality during last week's Johannesburg riots.

School principals in the Cape Peninsula were yesterday summoned to a meeting with Mr. A. J. Arose, the Coloured Education Director, to be informed of measures being planned to counter the boycotts.

Teachers' unions said that among the measures contemplated were the expulsion of pupils guilty of misbehaviour and the closure of schools if the situation became uncontrollable.

They were advised not to schedule examinations for the main Soweto anniversary days, but they were also warned that teachers could be sent home without pay if their schools were closed.

One principal said the pay threat had been received with widespread discontent by the teachers at the meeting—Reuters.

### IN BRIEF

#### Test-tube twin suffers setback

Melbourne, June 9.—One of world's first test-tube twins, born on Saturday, is suffering from severe inflammation of the bowels and is in a serious but stable condition.

Stephen Mays, who was born with a heart defect, has been put on intravenous feeding.

#### Swiss arrest

Moro suspect

Berne, June 9.—Swiss police have arrested Gustavo de Vuono, an Italian, in connexion with the killing of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister, in 1978.

The Swiss Justice Ministry said that Signor Vuono was arrested on Sunday in Lucerne.

#### Billie-Jean letters

Los Angeles, June 9.—The 100 letters that Billie Jean King, the American tennis player, is alleged to have written to her former lover, Marilyn Barnett, will not be published under an agreement that lawyers for the two women have filed in court.

#### Italian disruptions

Milan, June 9.—A six-hour strike of Italian air traffic controllers disrupted domestic flights throughout the country.

#### Bus accident

Dar es Salaam, June 9.—Eleven people were killed and 12 were injured when a bus carrying 50 passengers collided head-on with another vehicle in northern Tanzania.

#### Funeral tragedy

Lagos, June 9.—Four students, three of them women, were electrocuted when police tried to break up a funeral march in the Nigerian city of Ife. One of the women fell on a live wire while fleeing from the police and the other three students died trying to rescue her.

#### Arab shot dead

Beirut, June 9.—Saleh Hadi Dast, an officer of the Arab Liberation Front, a pro-Iraqi faction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, was shot dead in Beirut today.

#### Rail strike ends

Lisbon, June 9.—Portuguese engine drivers have ended a nine-day strike that threatened to close dozens of industries around the country.

#### Malaysian leader

Kuala Lumpur, June 9.—Datuk Seri Mahatir Muhammad, the Deputy Prime Minister, will succeed Datuk Hussein Onn as Prime Minister, sources said today.

#### Terrorist killed

Istanbul, June 9.—Security agents here shot and killed Tamer Arda, one of Turkey's most wanted leftist terrorists. He had been held responsible for the killing of five Americans in Istanbul in 1979.

#### Satellite burns

Delhi, June 9.—India's second earth satellite burnt up in space without completing its mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation said. A similar satellite launched last July is still in orbit.

## Solidarity explain to their British colleagues why they go on strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the Polish Solidarity trade union organisation were given a standing ovation by Britain's third largest union yesterday, after pledging "no going back" in their struggle with the communist authorities.

In the first face-to-face contact between Solidarity officials and the organized rank and file of the Labour movement, the Poles won universal applause from delegates to the policy-making conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

Mr Bronislaw Sliwinski, a regional chairman of Solidarity, praised the social awareness and internal discipline of Polish workers adding: "The question of strikes in Poland is not haphazard. This is a weapon which we use deliberately."

The strike originally threatened for tomorrow had been called in a region embracing nearly one million workers. "Why do we do this?" he went on.

"Imagine that here into this hall now arrive a large force of policemen, and here in the presence of you all beats into senselessness your general secretary David Bassett and the members of your presidium and you take them unconscious to hospitals."

"And that after two months of investigations and negotiations your Government announces that it was a minor incident and those looking for persons responsible for it will be some kind of witch-hunt. Would your union accept such an answer? Could your union believe that it will be able to carry on with its normal union activities?"

To a chorus of "no", Mr Sliwinski went on: "Are we right in taking strike action? Are we right in demanding safety for our union's leaders and members?"

Receiving a standing ovation he said: "Thank you very much. I see you understand."

Turning to the threat of a Soviet invasion, the Solidarity leader said: "We are fully aware that this is a matter concerning not only Solidarity alone."

"We have been making every effort to convince the authorities and all other interested parties that a health development of a truly free trade union movement may only serve the development of our country and that it will constitute a guarantee of stability—and through stability a guarantee of peace for all whose fortunes are joined with our fortunes."

He went on: "We believe that we will achieve this goal because from the road to justice and dignity, the road which was consciously chosen by our union will not turn back."

## Warsaw Pact forces plan more exercises in Poland

From Frederick Bonnar, Brussels, June 9

Reports of Warsaw Pact military exercises being planned in Poland, involving ground forces from the Soviet Union and possibly also from East Germany and Czechoslovakia, are not at present having great repercussions in the military organization of Nato.

Senior military officers of the alliance say that although no such exercises have been notified—only those involving more than 25,000 troops would fall in this category—they would not represent a break with a familiar pattern if they were to occur now. Nevertheless, the officers point out that the communications network set up during exercises earlier in the year has not been dismantled.

The size of forces involved in a possibly military invasion of Poland would be such that, according to the officers, they could not be kept secret. Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe would thus not be taken by surprise.

The officers state that, considering the pattern of previous military interventions, military moves on a considerable scale would have to take place as it is not only a question of moving the invading forces to concentration areas. They would be followed by other similarly sized formations—possibly from deep inside the Soviet Union—to replace them in their previous positions in order to maintain their military posture towards Nato.

Although it has been made clear that the alliance cannot and would not undertake any

direct military intervention, it is stated here that certain precautionary measures such as the redeployment of reconnaissance forces near the East German border and the upgrading of air defence operations would have to be taken.

This would be done partly to maintain the necessary security but also to demonstrate the seriousness with which the alliance views such military moves by the Warsaw Pact.

A Moscow-based Soviet trade union newspaper today accused Solidarity, the independent Polish trade union, of holding a pistol to the heads of the Polish workers by constantly threatening to strike. Michael Binyon writes from Moscow.

An article in *Trud*, critical of the visit last month by Mr Lech Walesa and fellow Solidarity leaders to Japan, said the ruinous economic consequences of strikes in Poland were well known. It did not mention the union's latest threat to call a strike if the investigators of police violence against Solidarity members in Bydgoszcz in March were not punished.

The paper accused the union leaders of assuming more and more functions that were overtly political and were aimed at dismantling the communist system in Poland. It particularly criticised Solidarity's praise for the Japanese economic system and requests for help for Poland from politicians and trade unions in capitalist countries.

"Only the Government of the Polish People's Republic which expresses the will of the country's entire population has the legitimate right to apply for help with a view to overcoming the present difficulties," *Trud* said.

### Seal invasion

Oso, June 9.—Hundreds of thousands of seals have invaded Norway's fishing grounds and fishermen are demanding mass killing of the seals.

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## US women become more equal

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, June 9

The European Security Review conference, although working in the shadow of Poland, is slowly making progress after weeks of stalemate. Western diplomats said here today.

The conference, originally scheduled to end last March, could now conclude late next month, the diplomats said. One possible date for a target date for ending their work could even be before the Polish Communist Party holds its congress which is due to open on July 14.

In Western eyes those "elephant" in the room, the Soviet leadership would thus have something to show for détente and have the hand strengthened against the hardliners.

On two key chapters of the final document, human rights and a disarmament conference, the conference has been stalled by the stubbornness in the contract of arms talks.

On a disarmament conference, with further confidence building measures as a first stage, the West appears to be prepared to accept a Soviet agreement already obtained in principle on the criteria for verifiability. But it would be left to the disarmament conference itself to decide how to negotiate to achieve this in practice.

The whole question of the geographical zone in which the confidence building measures would apply has still to be settled, however.

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## CHIA-CHIA GIVEN HIS CARDS

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 9

Chia-Chia is going home to Regatta Park tomorrow and Washington Zoo will again find itself with no hope of hearing the sound of tiny panda feet.

Washington's own two pandas, Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling, do not get on, though an attempt is made to mate them every spring, so Chia-Chia was brought over to try his luck.

But he has not yet had his first mating. Chia-Chia and Ling-Ling are left here in such a state that there was no hope of trying again. She was off heat before she recovered.

## Joint Caribbean project

President Reagan and President José López Portillo of Mexico ended two days of talks here with an agreement in principle to participate in a long-term development plan for the Caribbean region.

The plan is aimed at strengthening the "political and economic freedom" of the countries there. Details have yet to be worked out and will involve lengthy negotiations at ministerial level.

However, despite this agreement and the generally friendly nature of the talks, it was clear

that substantial differences still exist between the United States and Mexico about how best to deal with the political tensions in the Central American and Caribbean region.

President López, who maintains good relations with the left-wing regimes in Cuba and Nicaragua, made it clear he was not prepared to participate in any sort of economic plan that had anti-communism as its main focus. He suggested that Mexico should play the role of "communicator" in explaining the aims of the plan to other countries in the region.

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**CHINESE JERKS**

Peking, June 9.—City authorities have decreed that all healthy Peking bureaucrats must do half a day's physical labour each month to "keep them in touch with the masses and improve their workstyle," *The People's Daily* said.

**Seal invasion**

Oso, June 9.—Hundreds of thousands of seals have invaded Norway's fishing grounds and fishermen are demanding mass killing of the seals.

**Ruling near on Canadian constitution**

John Best, Ottawa

The Supreme Court of Canada is reported to be getting close to giving its judgment on the legality of the plan of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, to bring home the constitution from Britain.

Speculation has been growing in recent days that the court will give its ruling next week, possibly Tuesday, but this seems to be based largely on the fact that the nine judges are known to be working late hours these days.

Also, it was widely predicted

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## THE ARTS

## Bergonzi in charge

Luiza Miller

## Covent Garden

Before this week Verdi's *Luiza Miller* had been given only 16 times at Covent Garden. But the roster of tenors singing the unhappy Rodolfo, who pays the penalty of wooing under a false name and ends by poisoning both himself and his love, could scarcely be more distinguished. First there was Pavarotti, then came Carreras and afterwards Domingo. The latest in that glossy line is Carlo Bergonzi, who appears again tomorrow and on Saturday before passing on the lethally spiked rug of lemonade to Carreras for the rest of the run.

Bergonzi never was much of an actor. He now confines himself to a number of hand and arm gestures which suggest a member of the carabinieri on point duty at a time when the traffic is fairly light. But the voice remains in glorious shape. The audience came to hear him sing Rodolfo's aria recalling the happy days gone by, "Quando le sere" probably carrying the sound of a recording in their ears. Apart from a wayward note in the recitative he delivered the aria with exquisite ease. That secure sense of Verdi style which has been his for almost 30 years now suffused the rest of a highly distinguished performance.

The other newcomers to the production were made to sound inexperienced. Phyllis Cannan, Federico the childhood friend of Rodolfo, has reasonable weight to her mezzo but on this showing does not appear to be a natural Verdi singer. It is, though, a dismal role and Elizabeth Connell did not make much of it a couple of years ago. The conductor, Pinchas Steinberg, who first attracted the ear at Wexford in *L'amore dei tre re*, was heavy-handed in the first two acts, finding that tightrope of vigour and underlying melancholy which characterize Verdi's opera a difficult one to tread. The last act had much more shape and augurs well for the future.

Katia Ricciarelli, who has taken the title role from the word go, also saved her best for that last act and in particular the finely spun line of the povera di fanciulla to her bow and the preceding duet with her father — a training run for *Rigoletto* which was to follow two years later. The familiar trio of baritones and basses (Leo Nucci the wriggling Wurm and Gwynne Howell as Count Walter) provided excellent vocal support.

Flippo Sanjust's sets and production go as well with the years. The lengthy scene changes disrupt the action and what happens when the curtain eventually goes up is scarcely worth waiting for singing apart, of course. Count Walter's castle looks as though it has just had a visit from the balliff's men and it is surprising that Luiza should be so unhappy about leaving the family home.

John Higgins

## A circus act to test everyone's nerves

Next January, given average luck, reasonable reviews and an ability not to do himself lasting damage when he gets the trampoline trick wrong, Michael Crawford will be celebrating his fortieth birthday and the sixth month of *Barnum* by doing a number on a wire thirty feet above the Palladium stage in the continuing eight-shows-a-week attempt to prove to audiences that he is in himself a three-ring circus.

For that essentially is what is required of the actor who takes on the title role in the Cy Coleman-Michael Stewart musical, which opens tomorrow, and it is not therefore altogether surprising that apart from Crawford the only other two actors who have so far attempted it (Jim Dale on Broadway and Jean-Luc Moreau in Paris) have both come to it with a reputation for stunting as well as singing, dancing and acting.

As Crawford is the first to acknowledge, the show is about the spirit of circus as represented by Barnum himself rather than a detailed biography; there are indications in the book that this was originally to have been a more thorough and intricate account of the man's life, but by the time the show got to Broadway it was the acrobatics that mattered and that is the form into which *Barnum* has now settled. "After all," muses Crawford, "who can argue with those box-office queues?"

But *Barnum* still represents a considerable undertaking for the Palladium as well as for him; here as on Broadway the show will spill out across the auditorium, there will be tumblers and clowns working the house long before curtain-up, and most of the front-of-house staff have been sent across the Atlantic to see precisely how that is done. Even so, Crawford is a man who leaves nothing to chance: photographs of leading drama critics have already been issued to the clowns so they will know whose umbrellas not to "steal" on opening night.

Before rehearsals even started with the English director, Peter Coe, Crawford had invested five months of his life in *Barnum*, since Christmas he has been at the New York City School for Circus Arts learning to juggle, jump and balance, and above all learning how to fall, and by the first week of previews he had reached a state of manic determination to do not only everything done by Jim Dale on Broadway but also to add some specialities of his own, not least a final (and of necessity still secret) trick which it is said caused the impresario Harold Fielding to go to his grave in silence and several seconds when he first heard of Crawford's intention to do it. Those months of New York training may be about to pay off.

"My trainer there came from a family who still do a cycle act which ends with him thirty feet up perched on the shoulders of another guy on a unicycle; after a while, he said, you get a taste for it, though as yet I don't think I've got the taste of anything but fear. When you're



Michael Crawford: manic determination to do all the tricks

a child you dream of running away to join a circus; when you're grown up, there are not many of us who get to realize that dream. Even if the worst occurred and *Barnum* flopped in London, I still wouldn't regret a moment I spent at that circus school. Mind you, it leaves you about ready for the stretcher. They say that Jim Dale lost two stone on Broadway during the previews, alone one night with an audience, he fell off that high wire four

times before he got it right. Once you know that, and they've shown you how to fall so you don't break anything, much, a lot of the terror starts to evaporate.

And, though he started out improbably enough as a boy soprano in the original productions of Britten's *Lear's Make an Opera* and Noyes's *Fludd*, Crawford did first make his name on Broadway in *Black Comedy*, and on television in

*Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*, both roles which required a physical dexterity far beyond the range or interest of most British actors. Indeed when *Barnum* first opened on Broadway, and there were no fewer than five managements interested in buying it for London, each and every one of those five rang Crawford first to find out if he was keen to do it here. With the possible exception of Tommy Steele, it is impossible to think of any other British

stage star capable of carrying what is effectively a one-man show in the midst of a team of acrobats. Finding the acrobats has not been any too easy here either.

"We were very keen to use theatre people who could sing and dance and act rather than circus people who could just do the tricks, and as a result we now have a lot of very bruised kids backstage. But if you want to do a trick badly enough, in the end you learn. It's to do with what you believe in; if I'd spent my childhood going to Clark Gable movies maybe I'd have become the Great Lover as I was I went to Harold Lloyd movies so I've got a funny walk and I can do stunts."

There is half a million pounds riding on that high wire with *Barnum*, and Crawford treats the show with the reverence a world-class athlete might show the Olympics; divorced still close to an ex-wife and two young daughters, he seems to look forward to a run which will allow him to work, eat, sleep and do nothing else.

"In the afternoons I still train, in the mornings I go to singing lessons, and then at night there's the show plus two machines a week. And the osteopath. It's enough." He does however also have a massive Disney film (*The London Man*) out this summer, all about cartoonists who cannot draw strip-cartoon stunts unless he has first tried them out in person, and next summer he is committed to filming an action picture which will mean at least a temporary break from *Barnum*.

"But then I hope to come right back to it, assuming it's still here. It's not the kind of show you can tour, but if we can get the smell of sawdust into the Palladium, then I think we might be on to a winner. It's a show about optimism; that, and, well, I've got used to my toes being permanently black from the bruising when I land on them, but that damned wire is never the same two nights running and you have to play it differently every show. All I wish is that we had a rubber floor so that when the juggling goes wrong there didn't have to be all that blasted clattering."

"Anybody over thirty must have memories of Bertram Mills; I remember as a child queuing for two Christmases before we got in, and it's sad now that *Barnum* has to be a requiem for that lost world. But I think kids will find it more than just a lament for what's over; it'll still be an introduction to that world for them, even if they can't find it under a tree. This is not the kind of show you could ever film or televise. You have to be there."

As left Crawford's dressing room, they were driving two inches above concrete pillars through the floor of the Palladium stage and into the building foundations, pillars that will eventually support the high wire and the tent frame. It looks to me as if they are hoping *Barnum* will stay for awhile.

Sheridan Morley

## Concerts in London

## Krystian Zimerman

## Festival Hall

Brahms's F minor Piano Sonata is a regular finger-breaker, going well beyond what should be expected of a mid-nineteenth-century concert grand piano — and indeed of an exponent. Its very qualities of heaven-storming oratory and overwhelming high spirits make it irresistible to able young pianists, a challenge not to be postponed.

So it was that, at 24 (older than the composer when he wrote it), Krystian Zimerman, who has recorded the first of Brahms's piano sonatas, began his South Bank recital on Monday, with the third of them, this F minor work. His performance was much what one hoped for: this greatly accomplished young Pole was also what one feared from the work.

The slower second and fourth movements were gently and warmly voiced, with real sympathy for their twilight poetry. The intervening scherzo found him a bold and dapper exponent, though inclined to splash in thick animated textures. The outer movements emerged as grand in design as Brahms meant them, and as brave in the assault on their defences. Zimerman's right hand could play, but not truly penetrate and illumine the bright, spacious, extremely loud chords.

Those fistfuls of notes,

## Schütz Consort/Norington

## St John's

Monteverdi's seventh madrigal book was the first where he departed from a consistent pattern and included something of everything: madrigals in anything from one voice to six, solo songs, duets, and even a ballad, some with continuo, some with strings. He called it "Concerto", a comment on its style; as if retranslating it as "Concert", Roger Norington performed a selection from the volume on Monday, providing an evening as varied in idiom as it was unified in spirit.

Their subject, uniformly, is love, and the pity of love; Monteverdi's earlier phase is only faintly foreshadowed in "Tempo in cetra", where the singer vainly tries to sing Mars's praises but can only manage Venus's. This was Neil Jenkins, of all the singers the most secure in projecting his lines and his words.

It was this care for the words that I missed in the two long

contrapuntally intertwined in the development of the first movement, for example, drove him to the sustaining pedal too freely, so that baroque progressions as well as detail were veiled (was that what Schumann meant when he called this sonata a "symphony under wraps"?)

After the interval he turned to his great compatriot Chopin, with the G minor Ballade and the B flat minor Sonata. The introduction to the Ballade was pure poetry, tenderly lifted and suspended in mid-air by a feat of superb articulation, before the regretful, factual cadences that made to the principal theme. Thereafter, for all the adept, cunning technique and musical projection, his reading constantly gave an effect of artificiality, a desire to suggest an old-fashioned "soulfulness" which he apparently found unresponsive, and which I find unnatural.

There were beautiful and noble things in his account of the Chopin Sonata (all repeats included, as throughout the programme), but also some of the worst part of his decision to copy Rachmaninov's notorious misrepresentation of the Funeral March, beginning the reprise very loudly rather than piano, showed an equal of vulgarity in need of drastic curative treatment; and it was wasteful of his real gifts to play the eerie Finale mezzo-forte, instead, *sotto voce*, as Chopin requested.

William Mann

monodic songs, the *Pavane amorosa*, which Stephen Varcoe sang sensitively, the poetic cadences in the *Chaconne*, and *Lettera amorosa*, done by Eirian James with much apt variety of colour and pace. But neither quite relished the sound of voices, as any Italian would, as if they were part of the composition. The same went for Elizabeth Lane in "Con che soavità", music of the purest balm, its sensuous emotion reflected in the way the sound of the three supporting groups, high strings, low strings and plucked instruments.

There were a couple of duets, markedly contrapuntal, the delicious "Chaconne d'oro" sung by Patricia Kwella and Miss Lane with due charm and rhythmic life, and supported with beautifully pointed violin and cello. The other was the dark, despairing setting for two male voices (Peter Hall and Mr Varcoe), "Interrotte speranze", with its intense sadness from which the voice break away to make an effect of enhanced intensity.

Stanley Sadie

## John van Buskirk

## Wigmore Hall

John van Buskirk's Monday night programme commendably avoided commonplace choices of repertoire, and even his Mozart sonata, K.284 in D major, is not often heard. This was played fluently enough, yet one got the impression that Franck's Prelude, Choral and Fugue meant considerably more to him. There obviously are fuller textures to be manipulated here than in Mozart, and he did not always achieve the necessary variety of touch, especially in the Prelude, where greater lightness is required in the fantasia-like passages.

It may be that the relatively large structures of these works inhibited Mr van Buskirk, although in Bartók's Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm, too, the asymmetrical rhythms were sometimes blurred by excessively pedalling, and there was overmuch restraint. He appeared to have no temperamental affinity with this music.

Liszt transcriptions of Schubert songs were an unusual choice, as, still more, were

some of Schumann. There were moments of musical perception in the former's "Horch, horch, die Vögel singen im Wald", but the general effect was too heavy. These highly wrought textures need handling with refinement. Schumann fared better, largely because his "Frühlingslied" and "Widmung" have strong, continuous melodies to provide a focus for the interpreter's shaping of Liszt's virtuosic elaborations.

A well-chosen group of pieces by Louis Moreau Gottschalk sounded, in every sense, a different note. Even if "The Banjo" was taken too fast, it still sounded like a piece of quite adventurous ragtime, and this despite the fact that Gottschalk died the year after Scott Joplin was born. "Oh ma charmant, epargnez moi!" is only a piece of nineteenth-century provincial sentimentality, and much too long, but the "Souvenir de Puerto Rico", subtitled "Marche des Giberes", has an independent spirit and real pianistic invention. Mr van Buskirk, who has been here, gave an idiomatic performance.

Max Harrison

## Dance

## Swan Lake

## Coliseum

This promises to be the year of *Swan Lake*, with two unfamiliar productions coming to the Coliseum from overseas within a month, and new stagings announced to follow from two leading English companies. The Stuttgart Ballet showed their version on Monday, and it was true luck that the Greater London Council's fire regulations imposed a last-minute ban on much of their scenery.

With all allowances for the circumstances, however, John Cranko's production is not one I much care for. His idea of having Siegfried drown in the final storm, on the grounds that the music is tragic, is fine, but the realization of it less so when it involves giving the final moment to a flock of artificial swans. His more drastic changes at the other end of the ballet are even less defensible. For Siegfried to make his first entry disguised as a fortune-teller arises neither from character nor from situation

and therefore proves a pointless joke.

Thereafter, Siegfried has to make extra dancing to do, all of it sunny and extrovert, that the moody, tragic character simply has no chance to develop. Monday night's audience seemed in no mind to cavil at the changes to admire Richard Cragan's virtuosity displayed at expansive length, and it would be a sorry soul who found no pleasure in such manly skill combined with joyous spirit, but the story got forgotten in the process.

The music also gets somewhat hotchpotch treatment in the course of the evening: so far as its assemblage, that is, although the playing under Friedrich Lehmann's direction was admirable. In spite of having borne, as director, the brunt of the day's worries, Marcia Maynard danced the Swan roles with musical sensitivity and clear conviction; better, I thought, as a glittering flamboyant Odile than her protective Odessa. Annie Mayers's solo in the first act deserves mention too: bright and poised.

John Percival

## Merce Cunningham

## Sadler's Wells

Surely there can be few more handsome or gifted groups of dancers than Merce Cunningham's company, who opened at Sadler's Wells on Monday with a programme of one new work and two familiar to the London audience. The opening ballet, *Fielding Street*, uses 14 dancers, the entire company excluding the choreographer.

At no time, however, do they all appear at once, but singly, in pairs or groups. The dance is full of small jumps and utilizes a very emphasized turn-out of the feet and legs. Indeed, most of the movement seems to run in parallel lines, even coming from the back of the stage to the front, the dancers progress in short sideways movements.

The accompaniment is by Cunningham's long-time collaborator John Cage, and while I cannot imagine that this, or indeed any of his recordings, would be among my Desert Island choice, its sheer monotony does at least make one

concentrate on movement rather than sound. *Roadrunner*, which finished the evening, has a score by Yasuho Tone which includes Mr Cage and others reading extracts from various erudite texts, including a tenth-century Chinese encyclopaedia and something in what I take to be Japanese, given the presence of Japanese dancers among the musicians.

The premiere, *Charmels*, *Inserts*, was originally choreographed for film and possibly because it was designed to be seen through a camera lens the focus is more concentrated than in the case with Cunningham's work. The first part is danced in groups which change in size as the dancers leave and join them, switching their movements so smoothly as to make the change almost imperceptible.

Each of the five boys is given a short solo passage and this is followed by a series of brief duets which conclude the work. Handsomely designed and lit by Charles Atlas, it is danced to a score of cracks, crackles and explosions by David Tudor. A lovely ballet, well worth seeing.

Judith Cruickshank

Baldock and the drummer Tony Crombie, whose shading and rhythmic detailing (particularly with wire brushes) is subtle and helpful. No better jazz piano will be heard in London this year.

During the season, Ernestine Anderson falls into the trap of choosing her repertoire from such chestnuts as "But Not for Me", "Summertime" and "Come Rain or Come Shine". Only occasionally, as when her bassist, Jim Richardson, inserted the "Sagitt" riff

beneath the penultimate chorus of "I'm Walkin'", does the unexpected occur. Earlier, at the 100 Club, a collection of friends and former colleagues paid tribute to the recently deceased composer and keyboard player Alan Gowen in the best way by playing his music. In the hands of Pip Pyle, Hugh Hopper, Phil Miller, Richard Sinclair and Elton Dean, Gowen's music sounded full of an anachronistic optimism. Richard Williams

## Theatre

## Having a Ball

## Lyric, Hammersmith

Hot from the Coliseum, Oldham, and not quite so hot from Radio 3 (where it allegedly moved one queue executive to remark, "I must protect my Mozart listeners"), Alan Bleasdale's vaudeville farce unfolds at the Lyric like a CND pamphlet with rude pictures by Donald McGill.

Mr Bleasdale seems to have put it together by asking himself first why any man should decide to have the operation, and then how he faces it when the moment arrives. It is the second question that yields laughs, and it gets him enjoyably through most of the first act, with a trio of sweating candidates counting away their last minutes of potency in the clinic's waiting room while a masked woman surgeon is seen doing brisk cosmetic work on the queue of unsanitized bodies that are humped into the adjoining operating theatre like so many sacks of coal. Stage left Bob Crowley also supplies a private bedroom which comes in handy as the action thickens.

As for the three victims, all are good solid stereotypes: one sympathetic, and two nasty pieces of work. Lenny, making his third panic-stricken attempt, forgets his fears when he recognizes the other two as a long-bated school bully and the officious local council



Philip Donaghy

executive, and exacts revenge in a string of mick-taking puns and hoaxes culminating in a blood-curdling post-vasectomy scream at which his school enemy passes out in the corridor.

Add to this the council official's alcoholic wife who is running amok through the clinic clutching a jugful of neat vodka, and you have some idea of the homely fun that animates the stage until Lenny and the wife achieve an accidental rendezvous in the bedroom, and embark on the second question — why bring children into a world that has the H-bomb? — thus halting the play dead in its tracks.

It may be that the rude jokes and the nuclear message mingled happily together in the warm Oldham atmosphere, but on the stage of the Lyric they cancel one another out, and leave you time to observe that the plot goes nowhere, contains two conspicuous loose ends, and (as often in northern comedy) substitutes loud argument for action.

My one objection to Alan Dossor's production is that it is cold. It is full of excellent detail and comic tricks, such as the use of window and glass doors to secure background pantomime, the witty use of multiple exits, and the transformation of the bedroom into a luxury holiday spot with the aid of a few items of hospital equipment.

There are some lovely performances: particularly from Philip Donaghy as the desperately clowning Lenny, exposed on the operating table under a blanket with a strategically positioned hole; and the double act of the grimly embarrassed Peter Postlethwaite and his wife, Walters. Separately there are plenty of passing laughs, but the evening never catches fire.

Irving Wardle

Delicacy and a tacky resemblance to Elizabeth Taylor belong to Jim Hooper's *Hosanna*, the transvestite who moves to a "new concept" of gender, and Mr Hooper has an affecting way of unravelling the person beneath the glitter. He is the dominant element in *Ultra*, the design and Bill Pryde's sculptural production. In both characters there are flashes of Genet and Sartre, a happy mixture that deteriorates with the explicit epiphany of the ending, but it is absorbing in its sedate theatricality.

Ned Chaillet

As with Peterson (and Tatum too, come to that), there is something initially intimidating about Montoliu's playing: it has the quality of perfection. While flexible and wide-ranging, no inconsistency mars his conception, while sometimes shockingly difficult, and full of surprise, no infelicity disturbs his execution.

Yet Montoliu is far more interesting than Peterson, for, while he shows no fear of the turn-of-century surface of the standard approach to modern jazz piano, his melodic imagination is extraordinary, lending his work a marvellous richness, which is vented by the bright clarity of his touch. His brilliance works variously: in the cumulative effect of 20 or so unbroken choruses on a medium-up blues, or in the sleight of hand which allows him to disguise tempo-doubling on a ballad with a few bars of decelerating block-chords.

His engagement at Ronnie Scott's finds him in the safe company of the bassist Kenny

## Hosanna

## Repertory Studio, Birmingham

While the South welcomes the Canadian plays *Hank Williams: The Show He Never Gave* and *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, the Repertory Studio in Birmingham turns from English Canada to the French, to Michel Tremblay's *Hosanna*. We hear it in the English provided by John Van Burek and Bill Glasco, but what gives it memorable life is the visual sweep of the design, the burnished imagery of the representation.

As a play about an extravagant homosexual relationship, about a transvestite who has claimed the image of Elizabeth Taylor for his/her own and a leather-clad lover just off his motorcycle, the drama lends

## Tete Montoliu

## Ronnie Scott's

As a Catalan with a limited command of English, Tete Montoliu does not announce his repertoire with any flourish in his repertoire. This is surely the only reason why the pianist does not yet enjoy the kind of popular acclaim accorded to Oscar Peterson, for in every other way his performance is as outstandingly enjoyable.

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## Courage insufficient to halt Sussex's march

## McEnroe not seriously troubled

By Jerome Caminada

A slightly testy John McEnroe made his first appearance yesterday at the Queen's Club tournament, sponsored by Stella Artois, and was not greatly troubled by the other players of the British player, 6-1, 6-2 in the first round. At the other end of the draw Roscoe Tanner came home comfortably also, 6-3, 6-2 against Omy Parun, of New Zealand.

McEnroe on the centre court first asked for quiet, and then asked out at two o'clock, but did not heed his request; and in the

to the crowd, about "schoolgirls who come out for the afternoon".

He has his mind now on Wimbledon, his comment yesterday was, "I don't know if I'm going to lose sooner or later". But the pressure, he thought, was now on Borg. Swede having won the first three.

In play yesterday McEnroe found the court slippery, but when requested he used it, and his service improved so that he did not lose a point on his last two service games.

In the second set he quickly established a service break but

that made no difference. Umbrell went up as play was due to begin at 2 o'clock, and the first ball was not struck until 3.30.

Spectators are still guaranteed a refund if no ticket is available, if there is less than two hours to play.

The Tanner left hand court service saluted the opening match by allowing Parun one point only in the first game. This set the tone for the rest of the match. It seemed that a line ball of Tanner's service hit the crumpled net and the ball was in the chalk came up. He galloped home

middle of the second set he thrashed a ball to the back of the court after missing a point for game. This brought him a warning from the umpire.

When he came on court for this match he was given a fine reception, for he has done much for Queen's in the past three years. The Club too, has done something for him by leading him against worthy opposition on grass towards Wimbledon. He has always been well liked here, and yesterday, that the club has treated him well, though yesterday he grumbled a bit, referring

met leaving—2 he round times 0-20, and then 15-40 down. He came back to deuce, but then double-faulted. An ace then saved him, and another when once more the advantage was against him. Finally he tricked Faversham into the net, as he had done more than once before, and took the match.

The gods, it is almost needless to say, paid no attention to the sponsors' offer to pay £25,000 to Queen's Club if no rain fell each day this week. The hours specified were between 9 o'clock and 5 o'clock, not between 10 and 5 as I was informed on Monday—but

ending with a love game on his service.

FIRST ROUND: R Tanner (US) beat O Paron (NG), 6-3, 6-0, 6-0.  
AUS: beat J Wilkinson (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
J McKeown (AUS) beat J Faversham (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
S Kellum (US) beat J Morris (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
USA: beat E Exmo (US), 6-3, 6-0.  
R Francis (Australia) beat V Davis (Australia), 6-1, 6-0.  
Australia beat R Krishnan (India), 6-1, 6-0.  
P Fleming (US) beat G Gilron (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
USA: beat P Perret (Australia), 6-1, 6-0.  
G Gillon (US) beat A Gullon (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
IMR: India 6-2, 6-7, 6-6.  
USA: beat USA, 6-1, 6-0.  
AUS: Australia 6-2, 6-7, 6-6.  
USA: beat R Vance (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
USA: beat R Vance (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
beat R Lewis (US), 6-1, 6-0.  
beat C Nagle (US), 6-1, 6-0.

Battle Jean King, playing almost  
“Most players tell me the first  
6-5, 6-1: J Russell (US) beat

certainly her last singles match in Britain, bowed out sadly at the Surrey grass court tennis championships, where she lost to another American Barbara Hallquist, ranked only 42nd in the world, but the six-time Wimbledon champion 6-3, 6-2, in 58 minutes. The match was a surprise. Mrs King was never in a match with a chance.

Yet Mrs King, aged 37, watched by only 200 spectators, walked off the court with a look of triumph. She was in the world's top 100 women's singles, ranked 10th.

For the last time in 1954, this year they miss Wimbledon, they just hate it, they cannot bear to watch," she said. "But I have to go on because I have to have a choice. But it will be strange not being out there on court.

"I used to dream of Wimbledon as a kid and it has always been my favourite stage. I would have loved to pitch a tent on the centre court."

Mrs King who said she has received several letters from supporters, said she would like to see the 1954 Wimbledon.

**R BLOUNT** 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590,

[illegible]

She went on to win record 20 Wimbledon titles—six singles, 10 women's doubles and four mixed doubles—and is perhaps regretting her decision to cover the championships this year from the television commentary box.

6—A. Second round: W. White (US), beat R. Saris, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.  
7—A. First round: Argentina; beat L. Morse (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.  
8—A. First round: Argentina; beat N. Pietrangeli (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.  
9—A. First round: Argentina; beat D. Freeman (Australia), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.  
10—A. First round: Argentina; beat J. Peyer (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.  
11—A. First round: Argentina; beat S. Leo (Australia), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

GRAND PRIX STANDINGS: 1. L. J. Connors (US), 1,081 pts; 2. J. McEnroe (US), 1,040; 3. S. R. Nims (US), 651; 4. G. L. Arpaia (Argentina), 580; 5. P. Pesci (Argentina), 510; 6. N. Pietrangeli (US), 480; 7. F. France (US), 380; 8. M. Mayer (US), 350; 9. H. Seligson (US), 300; 10. S. R. Nims (US), 493; 10. B. Borg (Sweden), 480.

## finish among winners

rain during the closing stages slowed speeds dramatically. "It was a bit desperate out there. We were a bit desperate for dry roads. I considered coming in to change them but it didn't have much to do with time, so I pressed on," Grant admitted the six-lap 226-mile race with a lead of more than two-and-a-half miles. "I was a bit out of control from Cullybackey, Northern Ireland. Third was John Newbold, from South Norampton, Derbyshire."

Problems with gear seem to be at least partly responsible for the chopping and changing, with both Brian Farnham and John Riboureau (Olivier de Kersouson Gerard Dihscara) reporting gearbox problems after repairs. "I think Riboureau's gearbox might be the more serious for whatever is wrong with her sixteen must be doing something at any rate, lost her last lap," says Britanny Perries has had to repair a damaged mainshaft but was back on the road when ordered. Gattie Jean-Jay's Tulpin was also damaged.

Overall prize winners in Newport. Only six of the 103 starters are confirmed as having retired, among them, of course, the trimaran Bonifacio (Thomas Wiggins and Philip Steggle) which capsize on Monday.

They may soon be joined by one of the "practice" favourites, Eddie Tabary and his 100-ton boat, in their trimaran Paul Ricard, she retired yesterday as being only 100 miles south-west of Lands End 200 miles from the start.

An Irish competitor, Conor Mc-

Gina, from Dublin, was flown to hospital at Douglas by helicopter, having crashed on lap three. He had leg injuries.

Blake, 32, an Australian, was killed when he crashed on lap five at about 140 mph.

**RESULTS:** 1. G. Suzuki, 2hr 10m 58.2sec; 2. D. Robinson, Yamaha, 2hr 11m 09.6sec; 3. J. Gardner, Kawasaki, 2hr 11m 31.7sec; 4. C. Law, Yamaha, 2hr 11m 34.2sec.

(and Christian Ferrier) is still lying low following his crash in class 3 with Telefonte (Mike Birch and Walter Greene) in fifth place and leading

looks as if she is making her way back to France, the latest failure for team Tabary's long record of successes.

## The lonely sea and a Star

By John Nicholls

There was a long delay at Weymouth in 1976 before the weather was suitable for racing but by mid-afternoon the grey clouds cleared, the wind calmed down, and the water began to

class, has withdrawn from the series with an injured wrist.

Sir White, an Olympic gold medalist in 1976, continues to dominate the Tornado fleet and had another easy win yesterday.

**Baseball**

**NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia** 4, Houston 3; **San Diego** 5, **Pittsburgh** 4.

**EAST**

	W	L	GB
Philadelphia	36	21	60.4
Pittsburgh	32	25	57.6
San Diego	30	27	54.8
Houston	29	28	54.0
New York	17	40	44.4
Los Angeles	16	41	43.6

**WEST**

	W	L	GB
Los Angeles	26	19	64.8
San Francisco	25	20	64.0
Houston	24	21	63.2
San Diego	23	22	62.4
San Francisco	22	23	61.6
Los Angeles	21	24	60.8

**AMERICAN LEAGUE: Chicago** 4, Boston 3; **St. Louis** 4, **Philadelphia** 3.

**EAST**

	W	L	GB
Philadelphia	32	25	57.6
St. Louis	30	27	54.8
Boston	29	28	54.0
New York	17	40	44.4
Los Angeles	16	41	43.6

**WEST**

	W	L	GB
Los Angeles	26	19	64.8
San Francisco	25	20	64.0
Houston	24	21	63.2
San Diego	23	22	62.4
San Francisco	22	23	61.6
Los Angeles	21	24	60.8

well worthwhile. The programme for the "Flare, Lasers" and 470s on show on Sunday evenings. Flying Dutchmen and Tornados are one race behind, and the Windgliders have completed their series of seven races.

The Stars continue to be disappointing in Britain: indeed, they are almost extinct. One top boat came to Weymouth and in the excitement of two examples of an indigenous species actually meeting, they managed to crash with each other on Monday. One of them was disabled, so the other was left to sail alone.

Robert Jack has few seasons left his son Robert is his most consistent challenger but now that he lives and sails in New Zealand he is a bit of a wild card. The master, John Loveday seemed to have things all his own way but then he was injured. The Windgliders provided the third foreign winner in three days. He was followed by David Wilkins, an Irishman who won a silver medal in Russia last year.

Cathy Foster, winner of the 1976 470s races, was unable to contest herself for the congested start and had to work

[illegible]

مؤمن بالله







امی نامن الاصل

1







# Why I back Foot—and Labour MPs' freedom

For most of the past two years and especially during the past six months, the Labour Party has been obsessed with personality at the expense of policies. The argument had to be brought out into the open even at the possibility of a greater crisis, and that is what Michael Foot has been doing by challenging Tony Benn to contest the Labour leadership.

By finally revealing what has long been Westminster gossip in private, Michael Foot has been sapping our strength. I hope he succeeds. Then we can return to policy-making, which is the stuff and the blood of left-wing politics.

I would be surprised, if Michael Foot ever expected Tony Benn to accept his challenge. I think his purpose was deeper and more fundamental to the party's survival. The need to create a genuine policy unity, not a semblance of it, just before the next election. Without unity we will not win it. One of my Parliamentary colleagues said recently that he did not want unity because it meant compromise and that was the last thing he wanted.

What happens to the broad church then? A movement that

cannot compromise is a movement without reality, a church so narrow that one could not see it sideways. We owe more to nonconformism than to Calvinism. Theological purity is for the cloisters, not Westminster.

I am not one of those crying "Good riddance" to those who left the Labour Party, however great the temptation. If the Labour Party is seen only for those who use the line, it will rebound on us, and upon the left more than the right.

Those who left Labour to form the Social Democratic Party did not leave on the strength of their principles, or their intolerance; they left on the ground of their vanity. The left in the party has recent victories; it stayed and fought again and again to achieve finally some of its policy goals.

That is why I can accept that there are those in the Labour Party who believe there are other paths to righteousness, who believe it is not heretical to disagree. The narrower the party becomes in demanding strict adherence to every point of policy, the more the concept of the broad church will fade and the more we will be seen to represent the views of a diminishing section of the country.

Joan Lester, left wing Labour MP and the longest serving member on the party's National Executive after Tony Benn, argues that backing Michael Foot against Bennite sectarianism is fundamental to the party's survival.



The Labour Party has every right to be proud of its record in democratisation and widening of accountability, although we still have to determine our attitudes towards restricting patronage and defining collective responsibility.

But within this process there is no room for intimidation and no room for those who demand that MPs should become mere spokesmen—marionettes—as Michael Benn describes them for the party's views. Or that the party simply becomes leg-

ions of followers. Ideally, reselection should strengthen the bonds between MPs and their constituency parties, not weaken the individuality of MPs.

We should be seeking ways for MPs and their local parties to work together to bring about the fundamental changes already agreed by the party conference. They should exert pressure on the establishment, not on the individual.

When I first joined the Labour Party, more than 25 years ago, we were fighting for

the policies which are now accepted by the party conference.

We campaigned against nuclear weapons and, later, entry into the Common Market. Michael Foot was at the centre of those campaigns. No one then dreamed he would one day be party leader. Expulsion seemed more likely.

Cynics cannot say his accession is because he has moved to the right. It is the party that has changed, and I for one rejoice in that. I can understand Michael's resentment at suggestions that he is part of a collective sellout of party principles.

The movement as a whole recognises its victories. That is why Michael is unchallengeable, electoral college or not. His essential beliefs in liberty and democracy make him the only person at present who can unite the party on radical, left-wing policies.

To implement these policies we must first oust this Government. That is the most important item on our agenda. But we have to win the election on our own account, not hope for it to fall into our laps in reaction against Mrs Thatcher.

We have all disagreed at one time or another with party conference decisions. I recall my horror when the conference

endorsed what I considered racist, the 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act. I voted and campaigned against that Act long after conference had supported it.

No one put the finger on me. Those of us who opposed that measure had our views respected. So why is it different now? Some of my colleagues disagree with the decisions taken at the Wembley conference? That is their right. I am prepared to accept the decision but they have every right to try to change it.

The test of any democracy is how it copes with disagreement. Intolerance shadowed us in the past, but it has no place in my socialist philosophy.

Many of those now saying that the Wembley decisions were excessive were pledged to fight and fight again if the decisions had not gone their way. The depth of one's emotions is not a reason for changing the argument.

All the elected representatives of the party should stand by decisions collectively arrived at by the conference. That is our maxim. But within that approach there must be room for individual views to be expressed and expounded. Today's heresy is tomorrow's orthodoxy. Otherwise progress would never take place.

he did. Including the sun; which eventually would fail to pierce the pollution, and that would be the end of the world. His mind darts about. Quite a tirade against form-filling and petty officialdom, youth was right to want to change things.

It was nonsense to say we kept royal ceremonial because the workers liked it, we should keep it because it liked it. Tower blocks; human happiness, the motor car, Richard Nixon, the blue whale, mental deficiency, the melting of the ice-cap.

Did I know (opening a bottle) that true liberalism should be spelled Libbraunmich, and came only from the vineyard slopes around Cologne cathedral?

My eyes may have closed. "How about a stretch-out?" Getting up to lower some sort of bed for me from the cabin wall.

He does not stretch out much. Or did not then. Now, 10 years on? I should not think so. There are only so many minutes in an hour, a year a life. They demand full employment.

Too much of this, perhaps, about the Mexico trip. It is just that, despite red carpets and motorcades at all arrivals, he was in effect out duty. In the air they can get at you. Well, did. But that had been more about him, though I found out all in any of the routine interviews. But there was a typical Q and A at our first. Would he want to see what I had written, when I had written it? "Only if it will help you."

One advantage of royalty, it only has to stand up and the party's over

The draft came back heavily interleaved with handwritten notes. And quickly. How had he found the time? "What makes you think I'm biased over politicians? Any evidence?" "Please don't say I want to fly when the Mer men want to fly. I'm only out there against it. Oddly enough, I'm concerned for my own neck." "Steady! The Variety Club got Sinatra. I just went."

The day of the "appalling task" inscription was on the meeting. I had a pre-birthday present, and put the small red box on his desk. "Snap," he said, musing it with a small grin. "Cufflinks. I knew what they cost, because his accounts, like everything else, had been thrown wide open. But they were worth more than that."

But I have always found them useful bedside hints to guests who have stayed there. More ingenious ways, of achieving the same end.

## Niet to vox pop

Time Machine, the USSR's most daring and most popular group, has been officially banned from Soviet radio and television after sailing too close to the wind. Soviet radio sources say that one of the group's latest numbers proved too ambiguous for the political censors and gave the radio the pretext it wanted to ban from the air a group which the establishment has long thought too western in style and sentiment.

The song was "We are shouting Solidarity. We are shouting Solidarity. We are members of Solidarity. What makes it worse is that the group's leader, Andrei Makarevich, is of Polish origin.

Irish question A genealogical investigation into Ireland's present dukedom by writer Michael Estreich has landed him in legal trouble with the Dowager Duchess of Leinster and led to a severe attack of nerves at Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

The seventh Duke, claims she has been labelled by Estreich and is threatening to take out an injunction to prevent publication of his book *Heirs and Graces*. Weidenfeld have temporarily withdrawn the book while solicitors examine the Duchess's claims.

Estreich's slim volume examines the bizarre and well-known claim of an American bandmaster's son

Henry Fairlie

A popular President, but does he have any clothes?

At a meeting in Denver last week of local leaders of the Democratic Party from all over the country, one broke into a desultory discussion of the party's real problems, among them the fact that the United States now has a popular Republican president. She came from North Dakota, which last year voted for Mr Reagan.

His popularity at the moment is hardly to be denied. He is, quite simply, liked. He seems comfortable in the office. People seem comfortable that he is there. He receives ceremonial presents pleasantly. He is light-hearted, making little jokes, while his predecessor was earnest. If he appeals to public spirit, it is in traditional terms which people do not feel they must take personally.

He quotes a Chinese philosopher, Sun Tzu, to the cadets at West Point without having read him, signing that he has read him. President Carter might have claimed not only to have speed-read him, probably in the original Chinese, but to have done so with Mrs Carter on their honeymoon. Mr Carter never read much, his education was disturbed people. It is no wonder they find Mr Reagan so amiable.

Also he has been shot and then recovered, whereas the President of Bangladesh was shot and killed. It may not be a joke. Three critically important divisions in the Justice Department—tax, civil and civil rights—still have no assistant attorney generals. It is hard in the end to trace this dilatoriness to a President who is reducing his role to a minimum of initiative and decision.

It is hard also not to trace to the same source the slowness in formulating policies in any field except the Budget. Even in defence—where the Administration appears to speak clearly and strongly—no one really knows what it intends to do. It is promising the Defence Department almost a million dollars to spend on a new tank, but there is no sense of strategy or preparation for its tactical execution.

Foreign policy is still undisciplined even in some key areas. But it is perhaps in international economic policy that the absence of policy is most obvious and most criticised abroad. President Reagan has twice prevented his Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Donald Regan, from attending vital international meetings on economic policy. It is presumed with some alarm that this is a preface to an American undermining of existing international arrangements and institutions.

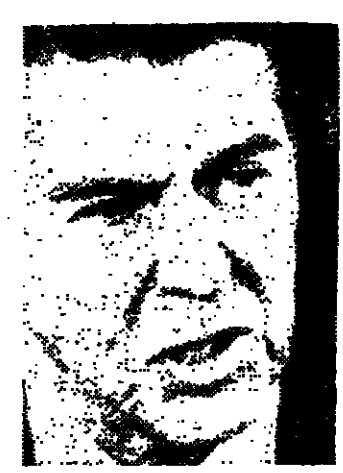
Perhaps the Administration knows what it is doing, or rather, knows why it is doing so little in so many areas. Perhaps it is being sensible, and just not being impetuous. But it is hard after five months not to begin to wonder how the President sees his own job.

Before the election, a British observer wrote in the *Washington Post* that, if he had a vote in this country, the best reason for supporting Mr Reagan was that he liked sleeping. He did not wish or expect his advice to be literally and seriously followed.

meeting with him has been held much less often since the shooting.

All of this may not be important. As is often said, he has always delegated. Favourable observers call it his laid-back California style. But what it must surely mean is that in the formative period of the presidency it will soon be five months since his inauguration—habits and hierarchies are being established which must determine its lasting character in response to a president who relaxes a lot.

Two weeks ago it was discovered that no ambassador appointed by Mr Reagan was in place, except for career officers, and that no nomination had been sent to the Senate for 52 vacant judgeships in the US Court of Appeals and the federal district courts. The first nomination for a US attorney was sent only a fortnight ago.



President Reagan: turning age to his advantage

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The 61-year-old Duchess, who lives alone in a small flat in Chelsea, refused to comment.

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Peter Watson

## The private Prince I came to know rather well

Prince Philip is 60 today. This tribute is by Basil Boothroyd, who wrote the official biography marking the Prince's 50th birthday.



HP frequencies pre-selected... Is it a passive dish? In London, I had been with him to something different, a drug-addiction rehabilitation centre. The questions were equally on the ball, though the first, I remember, was the presentation of a pale inmate, very easy and direct: "How did you get hooked?"

They gave us an informal dinner for six at Patrick, wide-ranging talk, top space brass. Suddenly a general about to be promoted proposed the health of the Queen with a well-rehearsed list of her titles and dignities. Staring. An expectant pause for the guest of honour's response.

Well, thanks very much," he said. "Go with grace, saying about continental drift."

He jolted my ignorance in varied fields. "You mean you don't know The Shooting of Dan McGrew?"

He had been the focal point of "bigger and more elaborate" dinner at Sandringham, staged by the Danes and Americans based there to look after the DEW line. It began at 2.45 am by our London stomachs.

He was buoyant, made the best speech of the evening, having spoken the night before, finally said to me: "Do you feel like tottering off?" One advantage of royalty, it only has to stand up and the party's over.

He could have had this in mind, among other things, when once I gasped at his rushing life and he said: "There are compensations."

He came into my adjoining room, laughing, while I was still fumbling for the right end of my pyjamas. The no smoking notice over his bed had a warning: "Volunteers Will Be Prosecuted." He had written it (after nine hours' flying) in the short interval before dinner, which might otherwise have been wasted.

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This was back in the cabin. He plus, so long as it is interesting, talk-of-the-pipe, was tricky weather. Just to sit up front with nothing to do is boring. That is what his RAF copilot is for. So we talked of everything under the sun. Or

looking down on the inhospitable brown hills. Maya country? I should have been told before.

But time had been short. To see him fly was something I wanted, but had thought in terms of a quick flip from Lupton to Sandringham. "Well, come to Mexico," he said. He was going on Wednesday. We rolled in a Rolls to Heathrow, no roads, cleared, because he hates that. Take-off to the second. He loves that, and was pleased with the Ottawa (I think) headline, Philip: Files in on the Dot.

We were strolling along the beach in Florida, outside some sort of VEF. Moments at Patrick Air Force Base, having lodged the night there for an imminent tour of Cape Canaveral, and he did not care for an armed escort: strolling warily behind.

"They just don't want you shot, sir." A snort. "If I hadn't been for all the security, Kennedy wouldn't have been shot." I never worked that one out.

But that was later. Andover's Queen's Flight being strictly shorted jobs that have to "keep stopping for petrol, it took us five days to

Mexico City. According to my geography we should have begun by crossing the Atlantic.

We made off in the wrong direction, but I did not say anything. Fuelled at Sandringham, Kellavik ("You have to come in here with one wing scraping the rock," my pilot said), and Sandringham, Greenland, for the first night stop. To come, Goose, Ottawa, Florida, Yukon, and May's country. We should part in Mexico. He would be trundling on to Santa Barbara, Vancouver, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia (official, from Vancouver joining the Queen's tour).

The NACA men, besides strolling proud moon rocks and whispering to the dizzy peak of Apollo-13 awaiting launch, and, tacitly restraining him from climbing into the de-gassed, vapour (but he saw sense in that), mounted great show of films, slides, lectures on the bewildering of space. They did not bewilder him.

Some lectures, less than concisely delivered, sentences finished for them. They could answer most of his questions: "But supposing there's a telemetry failure... What's the burning sequence... Aren't the

When the book was finished he wrote in my copy: "Discharged with full remission for considerable behaviour after two years' hard labour. With gratitude for taking on this appalling task, Philip, 1971."

Perhaps I never got right inside him. There is a private core. But I penetrated the outer crust far enough to see what Michael Parker had meant when he told me: "No one has a kinder heart, or takes more trouble to conceal it." His correspondence, which I waded through by the hundredweight, confirmed this. Letters from nobodies, which you and I, in our busy and lordly way, might drop in the waste bin, were read, thought about and answered. "Don't see how I can help without more information. Let me know if..."

I mentioned this once. "But it's important to remember," he said, "that there's often another side." In his early days he had sometimes worked up a complete indignation, only to find that the writer had no just cause.

Writing about him would have been an appalling task if he had shown me the impatience, the brusqueness, even coldness, that somehow still clings to the public image. I caught glimpses of these things, but seldom, and never directed against me. Well, it had been his idea that I should do the book. Not that he wanted a book. But there was bound to be one if it is a filthier birthday, and genuine biographers had long been skirmishing.

Then I wrote something about him elsewhere that may have appealed by its lack of archness. I think he felt that an expanded work from the same typewriter might go lightly on the bowing and scraping.

He is not mad about bows and scrapes; sees himself as a man first, a prince second. But he is flying me over Mexico, and I was up front, watching him at the controls. "That's Maya country," he went on with barely a break,

"Sir", and he did not call me anything. In conversation, that is. His letters, breezing in from all over the world and usually handwritten, were at first formal. Then he started one: "Dear Basil (if I may, and it's easier to spell)" and so continued.

Royalty has the talent, indeed or developed, of making you feel a friend. You come to your senses, but at the time, you are prepared to believe it. No, that's rubbish. When the Queen, who is uncertainly hovering over Sandringham tea table, parted the next chair, saying: "Here, sit here." I felt we should, often be taking tea together. Somehow we never have.

Prince Philip has the same easiness, though perhaps a shorter distance. My trouble was that he is too bright, too quick, knows too much in my areas of ignorance, loves an argument (which I hate). Can be intolerant of silly questions. "No, that's rubbish. And then back-pedalled to patch the breach." "No, but what you're saying, you see, in a sense..."

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Some plan of his. I forget what, but the authorities would not look at it, struck me as so unfeasible that I said: "Why would they?" Because, they're insane, that's why. It is a view, he can take, usually with resignation, often with a philosophical laugh.

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## How a Canadian predicted Israel's nuclear raid

The Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor has severely foiled Robert Hutchison, a Canadian author who lives near Geneva. For the last two years, Hutchison, 43, has been researching and writing a novel alleged to be based on the diaries of an Iraqi scientist who worked on their nuclear power programme. The man was accused by the Baghdad authorities of passing information to the Israelis and was imprisoned, but, according to Hutchison, the diaries were written in prison and smuggled out.

The book is described as a "compilation of fact and fiction" but has much technical detail, and development of the Iraqi project, including some real names. For and away the most contentious aspect is Hutchison's claim that an Iraqi reactor design to incorporate a "rabbit shuttle" around the core for producing plutonium.

By itself, the Iraqi French-installed plant using enriched uranium would not have made enough plutonium for a bomb. But, with the shuttle, of easily obtained non-enriched uranium wrapped around it, being bombarded by neutrons, a build-up of plutonium enough to make a bomb would have occurred. Hutchison refuses to say how he can be so sure the Iraqis actually had this shuttle system but he is known to have many contacts among the French anti-nuclear lobby, which includes some renegade nuclear scientists.

In the novel as it stands, the plot culminates in an Israeli air attack. But by then the Israelis already have three completed bombs stashed out of the way somewhere in the desert. Now, Hutchison is convinced, Sunday's raid is not the end of the affair and he is starting a re-write. He won't say what the new ending is, except that it is projecting the story into the second half of the decade.

## Enter young Ivo

It is not easy to say Ivo Pogorelich (and even more difficult to spell). But, after next Tuesday, it may be a name we all have to come to grips with. The 22-year-old Yugoslav pianist is making his London debut on that day in extremely unusual circumstances—and he is expected to be a smash hit.

When this young man was eliminated in the third round of the prestigious Chopin competition in Warsaw last year because of the unorthodox of his Chopin playing, his hopes of an international career appeared to have all but vanished. However, a storm of protest from the audience and the flamboyant Martha Argerich, a former competition winner, won the young man far more publicity than the contest's eventual champion, whose name we shall never know.

Now, Madame Argerich has pulled out of a Royal Festival Hall engagement and made way for the Yugoslav to take her place in Prokofiev's third piano concerto with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Madam Argerich, personally convinced the conductor, Mr Seiji Ozawa, of Pogorelich's worthiness. It certainly does not appear to be a flash in the pan. He has been booked by the Berlin Philharmonia Orchestra for its centenary celebra-

## THE TIMES DIARY

All civilised people will miss The Listener this week, victim of the pay dispute at BBC Publications. But, it is a pity that music lovers are missing it more than most. Editor Anthony Howard tells me he has been inundated with telephone calls because of a result of having to produce the magazine single-handed last week, he just did not have the time to include its monthly radio supplement.

Fortune's worry Bill Ruker is a good candidate for the description of second-most distinguished visitor to London this week. The editor of *Fortune* magazine, the American businessman's bible, has been in town meeting chief executives and trying to work out how the economy is going.

He is a tall elegant man, with swarthy features who might just be mistaken for a member of King Khalid's entourage in western clothes. He is rather optimistic about Britain, feels it is too soon to write off Mrs Thatcher, that businessmen are slumping down successfully for the time being, and affairs if and when it comes, and probably reflects accurately the concern of American businessmen when he says he is far more worried

Since Radio Times has reduced its classical music to a mere 10 minutes, the first Thursday of every month, has become the only music guide with the kind of detail liked by the classical buff.

Howard told me yesterday: "I always thought it was rather a waste of time. But how wrong can you be? Would you tell Listener readers through your columns that we shall publish the supplement just as soon as we are back on the streets."

about what will happen in France. According to Ruker, half the top 50 companies in France are American-owned and what happens at next week's elections is crucial. He is taking care to be in Paris for the vote.

We all thought that the vote for Mitterrand was mainly a vote to get rid of Giscard. Now it looks as though the French politicians go socialist as well. Whatever problems we face, socialism sure isn't the answer.

If that sounds uncompromisingly cocky, it could have something to do with the fact that Ruker took over the *Fortune* editorship, and it became a bi-weekly, its circulation has increased by 50,000 to 670,000.

Bedside hints I have a tip for the Duke of Devonshire. Opening the twenty-third, Antiquarian Book Fair at the Europa Hotel in Grosvenor Square, yesterday

Should it be more effective if the minister's chauffeurs strike, rather than the Under-Secretary?



day, the Duke said: "At home, my wife runs the house and I have only two jobs—the drinks tray and books to be read." He has a rule about these. The essential are short stories by Henry James, short stories by Rudyard Kipling, a thriller by Stendhal, and the *Oxford Book of English Verse*.

Fine. But what about if you want to get rid of people? Two of the world's most boring books, *Large Scale Despatch* and *The Geography of Cold Environments*, came my way about ten years ago in circumstances I prefer not to recall.

But I have always found them useful bedside hints to guests who have stayed there. More ingenious ways, of achieving the same end.

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Charlie Tyler, to be the sixth Duke of Leinster. The claim was made by Tyler to his bewildered family in California, more before he died in 1967 when he was 80, 45 years after the death of Maurice FitzGerald, sixth Duke of Leinster at the age of 35.

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# PORTUGAL

## Time to solve problems, not play power games

There are two ways of looking at events in Portugal. One is to concentrate on the country's freedom from the apparently endemic violence and extremism which has plagued post-Franco Spain.

The other is to note the time that it is taking to point Portugal in a clear direction. Illustrated by the present debate on revising a Constitution still only five years old. This document committed the state to an ideological road that subsequent political experience has made look very dated. The real post-revolutionary shaping of Portugal remains in its infancy. Perhaps this was inevitable after 48 years of continuous dictatorship, which ended on April 25, 1974.

But while the electorate has shown a commitment to the ballot box greater than that of almost any other country in the Western world, with parliamentary polls exceeding 85 per cent, too many politicians still seem to expend a higher proportion of their energies on power games than the serious economic and social problems facing Portugal.

Ambitions and tensions within the ruling right-of-centre Democratic Alliance are more evident than any threat from the Opposition. Against this, Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão heads a government with a majority of nine, a healthy cushion by Portuguese standards.

Portugal has a mixture of presidential and parliamentary government. The President is no mere figurehead. He is vested with significant powers which this Government has said it wants to curb. When, as happened last December, General António Ramalho Eanes convincingly defeated the Democratic Alliance candidate, General António Soares Carneiro, the potential for disagreement is always there. But Senhor Balsemão's relations with the President Eanes are clearly better than would have been the case had Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro lived. Dr Sá Carneiro, then Prime Minister, was killed in an air crash just before the presidential poll. He had threatened that he would not serve under General Eanes.

The lack of a strong challenge from the left is essentially due to the adamant refusal of Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader and former Prime Minister, to ally with the Communists. His total disillusionment with the pro-Moscow Portuguese party of Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, turned Dr Soares away from any idea of a pact long before such thinking gained ground in France.

Although the Communists attracted only 16.7 per cent of the total vote in the 1980 elections it would be premature to write them off as a political force. They are well organized, and strong to the south and east of Lisbon, where their support has been steady.

But the Portuguese Socialists have a problem. Their support has shown little dynamism. In the most recent Assembly of the Republic (Parliament) elections last October, the party and its two small allies won 28 per cent of the total vote. Under the Portuguese system, the Socialists would need to increase this percentage by half if they were to form a government without going into coalition.

The 1980 poll showed a slight improvement on that in the previous year, but in the Constituent Assembly

elections of 1975 the Socialists took 37.47 per cent, and 34.07 per cent in the Parliamentary contest of 1976. The Socialists' argument is that they paid the price of introducing stringent economic policies.

Wages were held down and the balance of payments almost brought into equilibrium in 1975. This bout of austerity was supposed to produce the right conditions for success in a 1980 campaign. Unfortunately for Dr Soares, President Eanes dismissed him in 1979.

Observers inside and outside the party think it extremely unlikely that the Socialists could lift their support more than 40 per cent by 1984, when, barring unforeseen circumstances, the next election is due.

The Democratic Alliance, which embraces the Social Democrats and the smaller Centre Democrats and Monarchist parties, won 47.10 per cent of the vote last year, an improvement of just over 4 per cent on 1979. The alliance would, therefore, have to split to allow the Socialists back into power.

But first, things would have to go seriously wrong inside the alliance, certainly much more than any discontent detected so far. Senhor Balsemão is well liked, even by opponents and considered tolerant, but he is criticized for lacking an assertive style of leadership. The contrast with the dynamic, impatient Dr Sá Carneiro is marked.

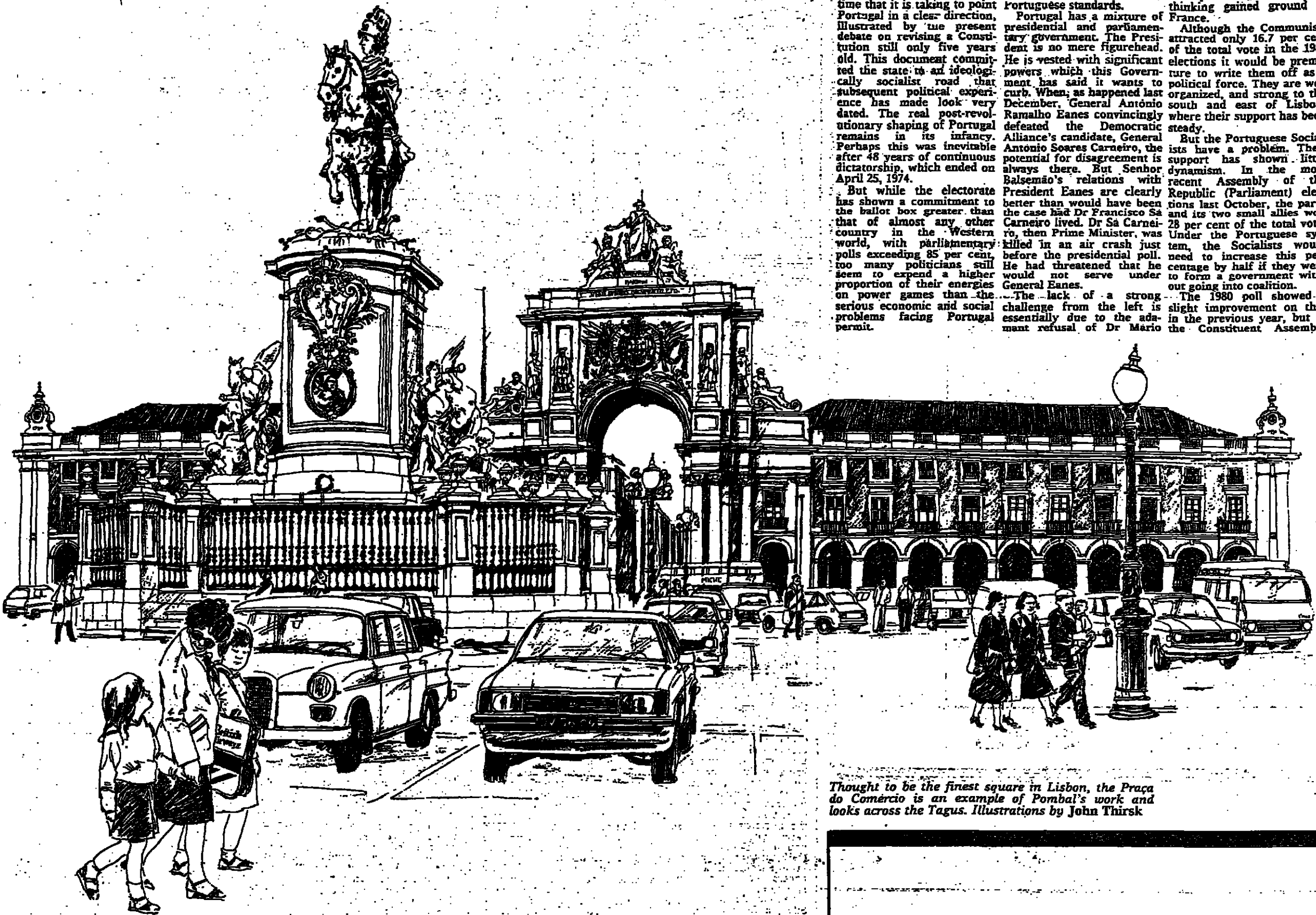
A lawyer and founder of the weekly newspaper *Expresso*, Senhor Balsemão heads a government of men in their thirties and forties. He is much less concerned with any ideology than with modernizing a nation which hopes to join the EEC in 1984, but lies at the foot of the Western European development table.

It can be argued that the quiet Balsemão approach is what Portugal needs after the years of political headiness.

A ministerial colleague described Senhor Balsemão as "a man who wants to have a dialogue". He added: "We want to be pragmatic".

Senhor Balsemão's undramatic, almost self-effacing style has helped to fuel speculation that his leadership may be challenged. The only party leader with personal magnetism is Dr Soares, who is being talked of as a presidential candidate in 1985.

Dr Soares, while speaking of his goal of making the party "the real backbone" of



Thought to be the finest square in Lisbon, the Praça do Comércio is an example of Pombal's work and looks across the Tagus. Illustrations by John Thirsk

continued on page III

## Talks on textiles hit a difficult patch

Every political party in Portugal except the Communist wants the country to join the EEC. The present working date for entry is January 1, 1984. This is on the assumption in government circles that a treaty could be signed about the middle of next year.

Political, psychological and social as well as economic reasons are all put forward by politicians and observers in Lisbon.

"Integration with Europe is essentially a political decision", one Socialist said. He argued that membership would create the framework in which Portuguese democratic institutions could be consolidated. Those who express this commonly-held view say that the refusal of the Community to have non-democratic states as members would be the best deterrent against a coup.

The debate is usually about why Portugal needs Europe. There is much less emphasis on the importance of Portuguese textile exports.

although when negotiations appear to be stalled or making slow headway the Portuguese can contrast the political endorsement that negotiations have been given with the technical difficulties raised in Brussels.

Britain and France have adopted what the Portuguese consider a tough line over their textile exports to the Ten, and Italy has shown sensitivity about the budding car industry. The British, who took 35 per cent of Portuguese textile exports last year, are seen as having recently shown greater flexibility.

Signals from Paris before the change in the French presidency were also interpreted as more encouraging. But the Portuguese are now waiting to see what attitude the new French government would adopt as access for their products. Last year France bought 21 per cent of total Portuguese textile exports.

The textile industry illustrates the vulnerability of Portuguese manufacturing organization. It is not a question of foreign investment so much as organization. According to one politician said, he argued that if European standards were applied to Portuguese crop production, agriculture would have to improve.

Statistics underline how much Portugal lags behind the rest of Europe. Per capita gross domestic product is more than \$2,000. Productivity on the land and in industry is much lower than elsewhere, but so are wages. According to a recent analysis pay levels are less than one fifth of those in West Germany and below those in Spain and Greece.

Sharp regional differences are found within Portugal. Infant mortality rates in isolated parts of the north are much higher than the national average, which in turn is exceptionally high by European standards. It is estimated that 30 per cent of the population is still illiterate. It will take much more than EEC aid to lift Portugal's health, education and communications to the standards prevailing in the rest of Europe.

But attitudes are changing. The shortcomings described above are being criticized by the Portuguese themselves. Psychologically, the days of isolation are over. Freed from African entanglements, Portugal seems to need admission to the Community as an acceptance that it is fully European.

Lisbon has told Brussels that it wants transitional arrangements of from three years for some fiscal adjustments to 10 years for the Common Agricultural Policy. Portuguese food and wine

production, unlike that of Spain, does not pose a threat to southern French growers.

But there are signs of nervousness about the parallel negotiations between the EEC and Spain. The objection in Lisbon is not about joining the Community on the same day as its more powerful neighbour. But there are fears lest any difficulties over Madrid's application, for example on agriculture, should delay Portuguese accession. It is pointed out that Lisbon applied to join four months before the Spaniards, and wants to be treated separately.

A further anxiety, expressed to me outside the Lisbon Government, was that such sectors as the developing Portuguese steel industry should not be affected by the running-down of capacity elsewhere in the Community.

The theme of the rejuvenating impact of membership recalls that of British advocates of the EEC a decade ago. "What we really need is a question of foreign investment so much as organization."

While the Portuguese have found the United Kingdom less forthcoming than they had hoped over textiles, the two countries share common views on fishing rights. The preoccupation of the British and West Germans with reforming the Community is also appreciated in Lisbon, as is the fact that the French have long had electoral means on their minds.

Possibly the Portuguese Socialist Party's description of the European option as irreversible will turn out to be correct. Perhaps the Democratic Alliance politician who put the emphasis on the EEC wanting Portugal inside as part of a strategy to secure democracy throughout Europe was right, and the country will not be faced with unacceptable economic conditions.

But as another government politician said: "If we fail, the Socialist Party fails. The only party in gain will be the Communists."

Denis Taylor

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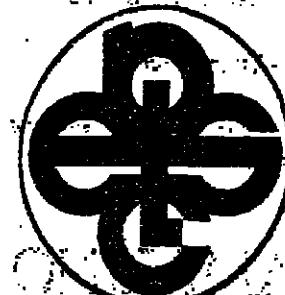
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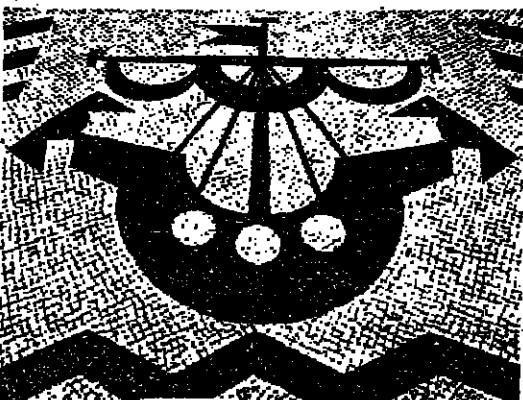
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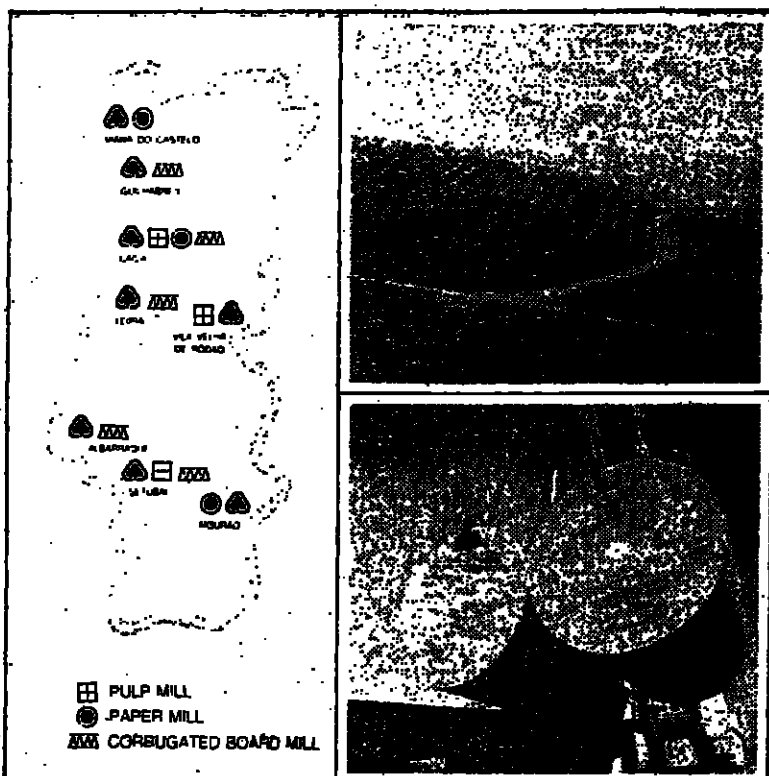
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## PORTUGAL

The Alfama is the oldest part of Lisbon and the best preserved — a cobbled labyrinth of narrow alleys with whitewashed or painted façades



## Keeping up with Joneses in EEC will swell trade deficit

There is lively debate among top economists over Portugal's large and growing balance of payments deficit, a question likely to dominate the nation's economic situation for the next decade.

Financial experts predict that Portugal's unquenchable desire for economic development, to enable it to catch up with its future partners in the European Economic Community, will bring with it new record levels in the balance of payments deficit. It was an unprecedented high \$1,500m deficit in 1977 which forced the Socialist Government to carry out a harsh International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity programme.

Other sources said these credits could be as high as \$1,000m over a three-year period. This is the first time that Portugal has applied to

Finance in the ruling Democratic Alliance coalition, gave warning recently that plans to boost the gross national product by 5 per cent a year over the next five years would inevitably mean a balance of payments deficit in excess of \$1,500m.

His predictions are confirmed by Senhor Jacinto Nunes, Governor of the Bank of Portugal (the central bank), who told a newspaper interviewer that a new round of talks with the IMF was under way. Professor Nunes said that preliminary negotiations had started for IMF credits to help to finance the sharply increasing balance of payments deficit.

Other sources said these credits could be as high as \$1,000m over a three-year period. This is the first time that Portugal has applied to

the IMF for aid under its new supplementary facility. A successful negotiation would be a useful endorsement of Portugal's creditworthiness in the international money markets.

Government economists backed by a recent World Bank study believe that with careful management and given the growth-oriented ends of the deficit, Portugal is capable of living with a high balance of payments deficit over the medium term without undue suffering.

Despite this official optimism both Senhor Nunes and Senhor Cavaco e Silva (technocratic central bank allies) are concerned about the growth now gripping Portugal. Development should not be striven for at any cost, they say. Unrestrained growth (5.6 per cent last year), easier credit and

an uncontrolled pricing policy, are causes of grave concern, according to the two men.

They have called for a prices and incomes policy to avoid overheating the economy and give warning that the drive for growth and its accompanying effects on the balance of payments will make it very difficult, if not impossible, to hold inflation down to the target of 16 per cent level this year. The fight against inflation has been, and remains, a key plank in the Conservative Government's economic programme.

Another aspect worrying Senhor Cavaco e Silva is the high interest payments due to foreign lenders on the accumulated debt of the past four years, which, according to him will reach the \$1,000m level by 1984.

The alarmist nature of these two important central bank economists is in stark contrast with the relative optimism reigning down the road in the Finance Ministry, where a young and dynamic team of technocrats talks confidently of both growth and development and controlling the current account deficit.

Earlier this year Senhor Joao Morais Leao, the Finance Minister, unveiled his 1980 budget and proposals for the country's first five-year medium-term plan.

His main concern is to prepare the way for entry to the European Community scheduled for 1984, and indeed of government philosophy in general is "development".

Portugal is economically the most backward of all Western European countries. In 1980 its per capita income was \$2,020, a third of the population. A disproportionate 30 per cent of its labour force is employed on the land but is nevertheless unable to produce enough of the nation's food requirements, 60 per cent of which is imported — a figure officials admit is deplorable for a fertile country.

In his budget the minister proposed a 5 per cent annual growth in the gross national product (compared with predicted zero growth in the OECD countries next year) and an 8 per cent increase annually in gross fixed capital formation, weighted in favour of private sector investments. (Through post-revolutionary nationaliza-

tions, the state controls the most vital 30 per cent of the economy, namely such sectors as banking, insurance, steel, cement, oil refining, transport and armament production.)

This emphasis on the private sector is in line with government philosophy to provide ample scope for private initiative and at the same time oblige the public sector to survive without increased government help.

"What we want is a European model for the Portuguese economy", one planner said, meaning a swing away from heavy state intervention and net reduction in government spending of the public sector.

But bold and challenging as the Government's medium-term plan is, it is conditioned by external factors beyond its control. But bold and challenging as the Government's medium-term plan is, it is conditioned by external factors beyond its control.

At the same time the country's two main sources of foreign exchange — tourism and emigrants — are likely to be severely restrained by the continuing recession.

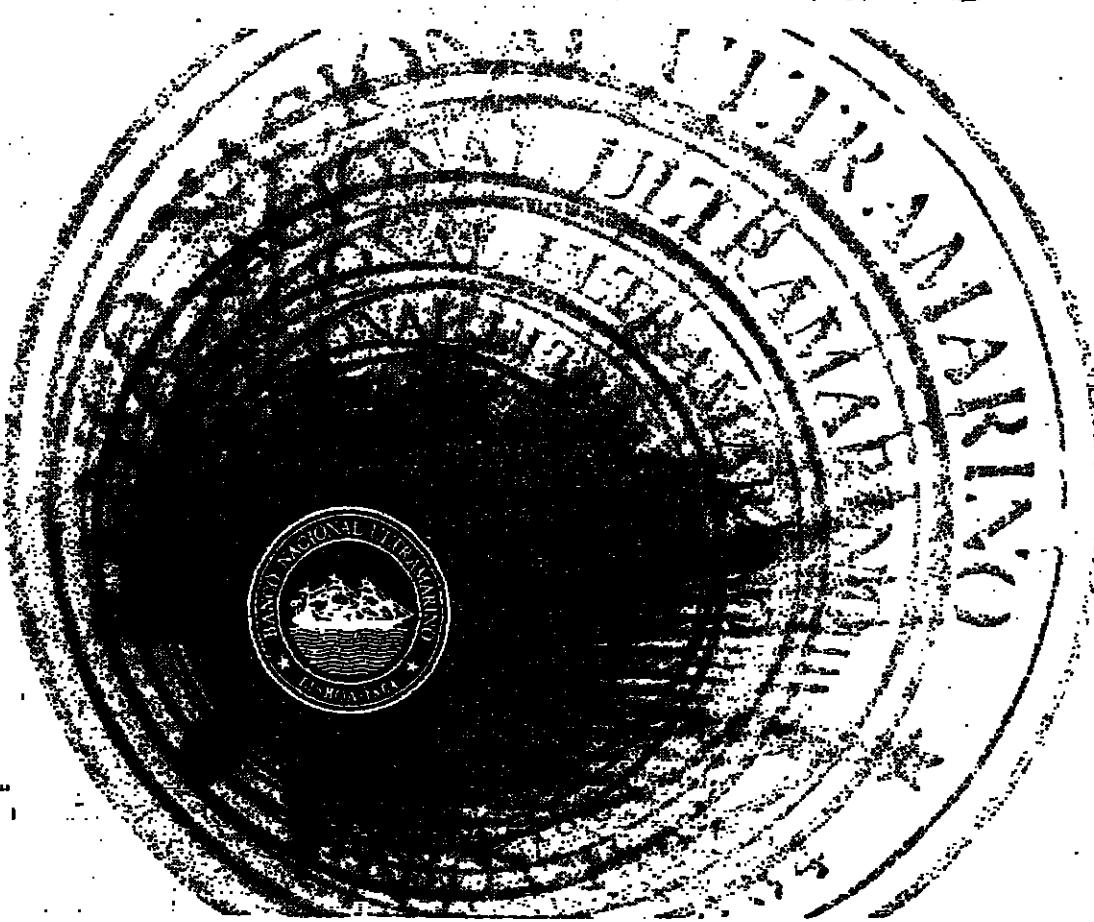
Tourism receipts reached a peak at \$1,100m last year while emigrants sent back a record \$2,200m, neither of which amounts is expected to be exceeded this year.

However, underlying the Government's optimism and its decision to go for growth is a basically sound financial foundation. At the end of last year all except 1 per cent of Portugal's gold reserves of 700 tonnes were free of pledges. And these, valued at \$10,000m, together with about \$4,000m of foreign currency reserves, form a solid basis for securing the Government's plans success.

Portugal has very little chance there can be no standing still in the face of the EEC challenge. The country has got to develop, and get into debt to do so.

Denis Taylor

Jonathan Fairfax

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The Portuguese tend to be very sensitive about the way the outside world brackets them with Spain, and emphasize the distinctiveness of their own customs and language. The Portuguese have traditionally looked beyond the peninsula to France for intellectual sustenance, although English has become the first foreign language of the new generation.

But there is no mistaking the degree of anxiety in Lisbon about events across the border. Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, said: "If a military regime were established in Spain, it would be a catastrophe. The whole of Europe would be threatened."

Not everyone would put it so apocalyptically, recalling that the Spanish Civil War was the beginning of the World War. But in a fledgling democracy like Portugal, people are bound to lose confidence if the even more recent experiment in democracy next door should fail. One fear is that a coup in Spain would give ideas to extreme right wing elements in Portugal.

The opposite argument is also heard that their record shows there is much less cause for worrying about the Portuguese military and that Spanish democracy will probably weather the present assaults upon it.

Across the political spectrum there is keen interest in the election of M Francois Mitterrand as President of France. The Socialists are elated that the left has come to power without making common cause with the Communists. This is seen as eventually having immense implications for the southern European tier of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece. Comfort is taken from the speed with which the French Socialists have gained electoral support.

The Government is still waiting to see how French policy will evolve. Lisbon will be particularly interested in any change of emphasis on the EEC, which Portugal is negotiating to join, and on Africa.

Closer relations are developing with the five former Portuguese territories in Africa: Mozambique, Angola, Guinea Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands and São Tomé and Príncipe.

"Our relations without exception are excellent", Senhor Andre Goncalves

Pereira, the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, told me recently in Lisbon.

"But we very seldom work together at the United Nations. We are trying to depoliticize our economic and cultural cooperation", he said. There were 300 Portuguese teachers now working in Angola, "but our purpose is not to interfere in Angola's internal affairs".

He emphasized the importance of the Portuguese language for working in the former territories and said that technicians were now going out to Africa to work. They often have African experience, but they are not drawn from among former settlers, the *retornados*, who have been successfully integrated in Portugal.

Given the ideological differences between Marxist governments like those in Angola and Mozambique and the right of centre administration of Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão in Lisbon, it seems realistic for the Portuguese to concentrate on improving relations at a technical level. Nevertheless, developments like the visit to Portugal of Mr Joaquim Chissano three months ago imply that links will increase

with the former African territories. This was the first high-level contact between the two states since Mozambique's independence.

Lisbon's relations with another Marxist state, Cuba, have been distinctly cool recently. In March, the Portuguese chargé d'affaires in Havana was publicly accused of having helped in the seizure of the Ecuadorian embassy the previous month, declared persona non grata and ordered out of the country.

Portugal then told the Cuban ambassador to leave Lisbon. The Portuguese are seeking to expand their links with the Arab world. This makes sense in a country dependent on imports for more than 80 per cent of its energy needs.

Senhor Goncalves Pereira said, however: "Our efforts are not only to get oil, but to increase relations to sell products and have Portuguese companies working there." He described relations with Britain as excellent. There were "no bilateral problems between us", he said.

Denis Taylor

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## PORTUGAL

# Old wine and new opportunities keep a 600-year friendship thriving

British business, which dates back to the eighteenth century, remains alive and well in Portugal. While the competition for exports to Portugal by Britain's European Community associates, Germany and France, and the United States, is officially described as fierce, the United Kingdom is still its old ally's best customer for such Portuguese goods as tinned sardines, tomato paste, textiles, port wine and cork products. Last year that trade added up to £335.1m.

According to an official in the commercial section of the British Embassy in Lisbon, Britain is holding on to its share of a promising export market of 10 million people. That share, generally listed among the top five, amounted in 1980 to £339.85m, representing sales of lorries and other transport equipment, plastics, seed potatoes, chemicals, lubricating oils, and cattle and pigs for breeding.

Although a lot of good will towards us is engendered by Britain's 600-year-old alliance with their country, the Portuguese, quite naturally, take a hard look at everything we have to offer, the official said.

"No preferential consideration is given to British goods just because they are British. Portuguese government people and business men insist on top quality at the best price for anything they buy, from anywhere."

Evidence of the long-standing commercial partnership between the two countries is the British-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce in the capital. Established at the turn of the century, it is still thriving and its members include a number of the 4,500 British-born residents of Portugal.

The port wine trade, which plays an important part in Portugal's economy, fluctuates and is fragile since the 1974 revolution — is studied with venerable British names such as Croft, Sandeman, Cockburn and Offley. The 800 Britons living in and around Oporto, centre of the trade, are the oldest and most respected foreign community in that misty, northern town that even boasts a cricket club. Some of the residents are descendants of British merchants who came to pick and choose the grape harvests of the rugged Douro valley after the signing of a 1763 trading agreement between England and Portugal.

Still known widely as "the Englishman's wine", port is a British discovery. The Douro wine often turned sour on its way to England so those early shippers began adding brandy to the casks to stop fermentation and keep the wine's fruity sweetness.

Thus, glowing, robust port was born and became the "prince of wines" in which the loyal toast to the throne has been drunk for decades at banquets and in officers' messes. The Portuguese shippers continue to look to

their British counterparts to help to maintain the unique quality of port wine, which Walpole, Pitt and Gladstone in turn enjoyed.

It was the British, too, who helped to establish the Portuguese cork trade last century when the Robinsons, the Rankins and the Reys, who became the "three Rs" of the business, the Robinson company in Porto Alegre is today owned by Portuguese, but the Rankin factory, which was set up in 1884, still exports cork bottle stoppers to customers all over the world. The Reys holds company, founded earlier, in 1840, is now the Sociedade Nacional Corticeira. It manufactures a variety of cork products, from bulletproof boards to beer mats at its large factory at Barreira across the Tagus river from Lisbon. It has also been testing cork as an insulator in Portugal's solar energy programme.

Oxford-educated Roderick Reynolds, managing director of SNC, who speaks Portuguese as fluently as any of his workers, said: "Portugal accounts for 52 per cent of the world's cork trade. I'm proud that my family and I have helped to foster and expand it."

Down south in the "garden province" of the Algarve, whose abundant sunshine and sweeping Atlantic beaches attracted seven million international visitors (led by the Spaniards and the British) last year, big companies and wealthy trusts based in the United Kingdom are involved in the region's present building boom. This has been generated by ever-increasing demands on hotel and other accommodation by package tour operators and villa rental companies.

Revenues from mass tourism help to provide many social services in the Algarve. A large removals and storage company established in England for over a century has begun business there. Its customers range from former colonial civil

servants from Africa and India, who "can't stand the English climate" to younger, married couples who have left Britain to start bars or restaurants, market or landscape gardening businesses and other small concerns. In fact, half the British residents in Portugal live in the Algarve, giving rise to the very Portuguese joke that England may have lost an empire but she has gained a province.

The interests of all the British in Portugal — resi-

dents, business visitors and holidaymakers alike — are looked after by the British consul and his small staff who occupy a first-floor suite of offices overlooking the harbour of bustling Faro, the Algarve coast's halfway house.

The consul is a courteous, soft-spoken man with the air and complexion of an English gentleman farmer. He is, however, a distinguished Portuguese. Senhor José Manuel Teixeira Gomes Pearce de Azevedo, whose

maternal grandfather was for 13 years, from 1910, Portugal's first republican ambassador to the Court of St. James's.

Senhor Azevedo, who was himself once a businessman in his father's shipping firm, warmly acknowledges Portugal's debt to Britain in various sectors of trade and development.

"I'm a man of two worlds," he chuckles, "and I support and encourage both of them."

Eric Robins



Taking a sample in the Sandeman wine lodge on the Vila Nova de Gaia, Oporto

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B. Sitting outside a beach café eating freshly grilled sardines with homemade country bread, and drinking red wine from the wood, while the sun slowly sets over the ocean. For only £1.00 a head.

C. A fixed-price menu in a small continental roadside café: £4.00 a head without service.

### 2 WHICH OF THESE HOTELS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO STAY IN?

A. The *Pousada dos Lóios*, a 15th century converted monastery for around £16.00 a night, including breakfast and a lavish dinner in the cloisters.  
B. The *Estalagem da Torre Mudeira*, a charming inn on the outskirts of Lisbon and overlooking the sea, for around £12.00 including breakfast.  
C. A modern tower block hotel overlooking the station. Half board and half built for £15.00 a night.

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### 4 WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL BEACH?

A. One that you discovered yourself.  
B. One that was recommended by a local over a beer.  
C. Where have all the people gone.

### 5 WHEN YOU'RE TOURING IN YOUR CAR DO YOU LIKE TO?

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## Power and pragmatism

continued from page 1

Portuguese democracy, declined to look so far ahead. He told me that his main objective was to win back the 10 per cent of voters who had defected from the Socialists since the peak of their popularity, and to concentrate on trying to do this in the local elections next year.

He saw this task as persuading voters who had switched to the right. His party's centre of gravity already looks well to the right compared with that of the British Labour Party. The Portuguese Socialist favour membership of the EEC, a mixed economy and a commitment to Nato. Portugal's geographical position means, however, that the party does not have to agonise over issues such as whether nuclear missiles should be stationed on the national territory.

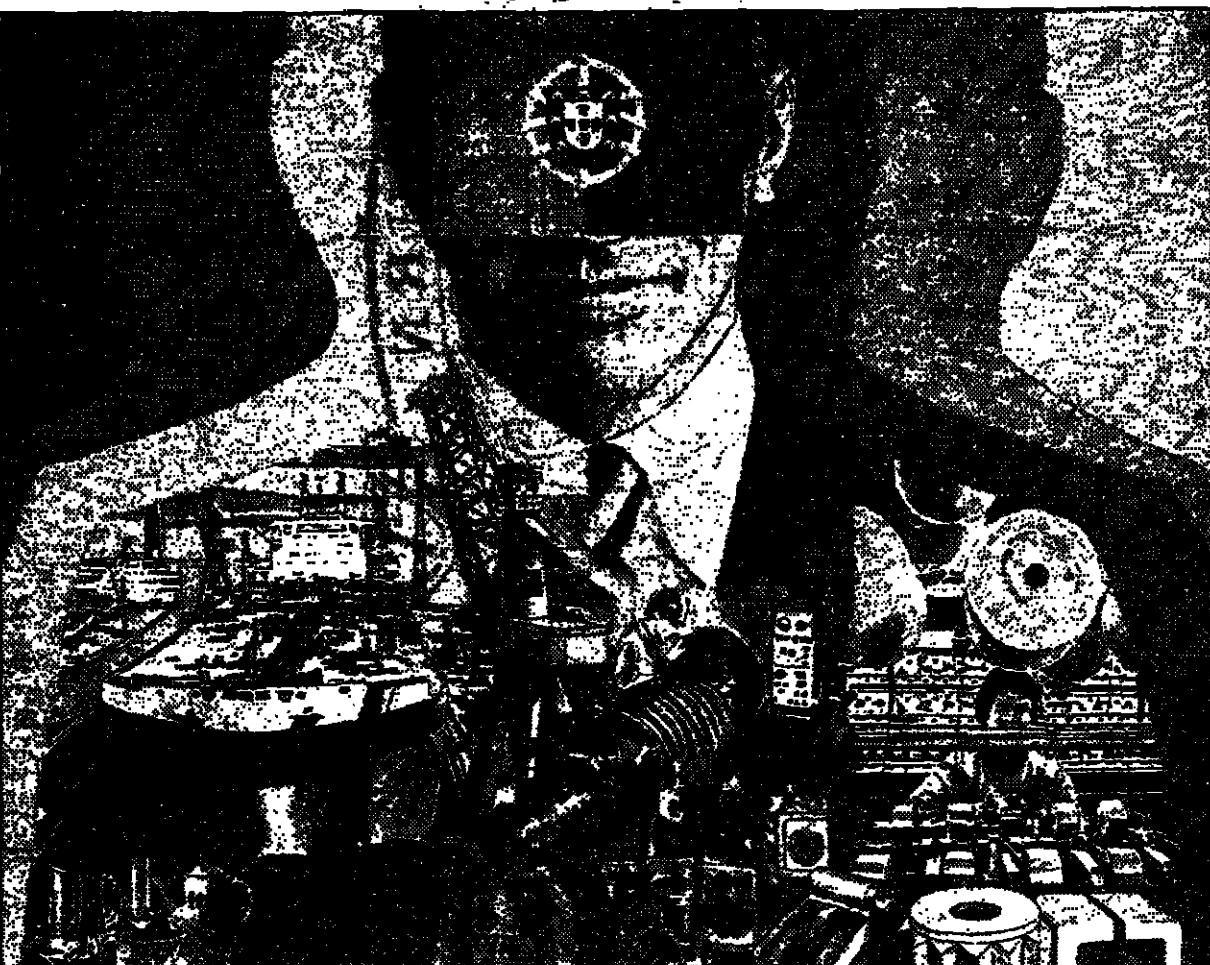
The recent dispute inside the Socialist Party, resolved last month, was not a question of left versus right. One faction, including a number of technocrats, wanted greater decentralisation and a reduction in the powers of Dr. Soares, the Socialist Government leader. Soares supporters claimed that their opponents wanted to control the party. But there was no suggestion that anyone other than Dr. Soares should be leader.

Because a two-thirds parliamentary majority is required to amend the Constitution, Government support for reform, although there will inevitably be detailed bargaining before any agreement is reached, the Socialist are likely to be flexible about dismantling the revolutionary rhetoric enshrined in the document.

A clear sign that the post-revolutionary era is entering a new phase is the desire across party lines to abolish the Council of the Revolution, and the council's own willingness to be wound up. The council, which includes the President, the Chief of the General Staff and service chiefs, can recommend to the President that he dissolves Parliament, dismisses or appoints a Prime Minister, and declares a state of emergency in the case of a foreign attack or threat or of an internal threat to the democratic order. The Revolutionary Council can also make laws governing the organisation, functioning and discipline of the Armed Forces.

For the first time since that event, a civilian government faces the prospect of having the Armed Forces under its control. The exhilarating days when soldiers led the revolt against the old order, their rifles decorated with carnations, already seem part of history.

Denis Taylor



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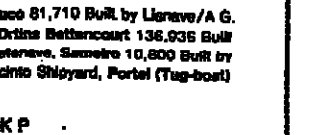
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## Workers subordinate demands to country's interest

Portuguese workers earned a high reputation for militancy during the 1974 revolution and its aftermath, but present trends show that, at least since the Communist Party lost influence in government in 1975, the trade union movement has responded to pleas to subordinate its demands to the national interest.

The country's 3,700,000 workers are organized into two main trade union federations — the Communist-led CGT/Intersindical, which claims 1,500,000 members, and the UGT (General Union of Workers), which claims 178,000 members and is backed by the Socialist and Social Democrat Parties.

The UGT was founded in 1978 at the initiative of the Socialists to contest Intersindical's monopoly of trade union organization and provide an anti-Communist alternative. It has not met with the results it hoped for, recruiting slowly from predominantly white-collar workers.

Unionists of all political shades favour Intersindical for effective action. Industrial relations in Portugal, from both labour and management viewpoints, reflect the relative youth of trade union traditions. The right to organize was banned for most of this century by the Salazar dictatorship, which also retarded industrial development until the 1960s.

"These factors are important," a labour attaché from a Western embassy claimed. "During 50 years of Salazarism, management was accustomed to telling people what to do rather than consulting them. It is difficult now for the older generation of managers to change, especially when they are often subject to abusive confrontations from the workers."

The right to strike was

first won in Portugal in 1910, after the monarchy was overthrown in favour of a republic. According to A. H. Oliveira Marques, the historian, there were "only some 100,000 real proletarians in Portugal" at this time. Unlike its modern counterpart, the CGT federation formed in 1919 was anti-Soviet, allied to the anarchist Workers' International Association.

After the Republic gave way to dictatorship in 1926, strikes were banned and unions established on Mussolini's corporatist model. For 37 years, free trade union activity was ruthlessly suppressed. When Dr Salazar died, his more liberal successor, Marcelo Caetano, allowed limited trade union activity, leading to the formation of the CGT/Intersindical in 1970, crowning years of clandestine activity led by the Communist Party.

With the 1974 revolution, Intersindical established itself as Portugal's sole trade union bureau, drawing on the prestige of its illegal struggle. In the tumultuous days of 1974 and 1975, it occupied factories and seized land in order to back Communist Party demands for a greater share in government, and thus provided a serious problem for the majority Socialist Party, which was led by lawyers and doctors and lacked an industrial base.

Two factors have modified Intersindical's power since the revolution — the Communist Party's fall from office in November 1975 when General Ramalho Eanes and his group of nine military officers took power, and the Socialist's decision in 1978 to set up the rival UGT.

The former led to a change of tactics by the Communist Party, which found new

value in parliamentary tactics and accordingly exercised greater discipline over its industrial wing, a strategy tempered, too, by the challenge of the UGT.

The potential power of the Communist Party to dictate to government through its industrial strength has been an underlying theme of political discussion since 1975, but is largely illusory. The lack of a long trade union tradition has limited the ability of Intersindical to call political strikes — there is no tradition of strike funds, for example, and its over-centralized structure has undermined shop steward initiatives (the most successful factory and land seizures of 1974 and 1975 were unauthorized). Successive Governments have been able to break strikes with an

essentially unknown in neighbouring European countries, by use of the "civil requisition" which declares strikes in essential sectors illegal and subjects strikers to court action.

Moreover, after the revolutionary dust had settled, Portuguese workers found that in the pursuit of utopian goals their wages and conditions had suffered. In 1979 real wages were back to 1973 levels. Today the national

minimum is £7 a week, giving unions little scope to sustain long strikes. This largely accounts for the success of the conservative Democratic Alliance Government, elected in 1979, in discouraging agricultural collectives in the radical Alentejo region against opposition from rural workers' unions.

This is not to say that the workers' movement in post-revolutionary Portugal is docile, as their continuing loyalty to the militant Intersindical rather than UGT shows. Foreign investors, as local managers are constantly frustrated by tough controls on the right to hire and fire, fiercely defended by the unions. These are often circumvented by hiring short-term contracts and the present Government intends to introduce a labour law which will extend employers' rights.

Although the power of the political strike is generally over-estimated, Intersindical has adapted its tactics to prevailing conditions by calling strikes of small groups of key workers in sensitive areas.

The civil service has also become a new focus for militant union action. With limited chances for employment in Portugal's small

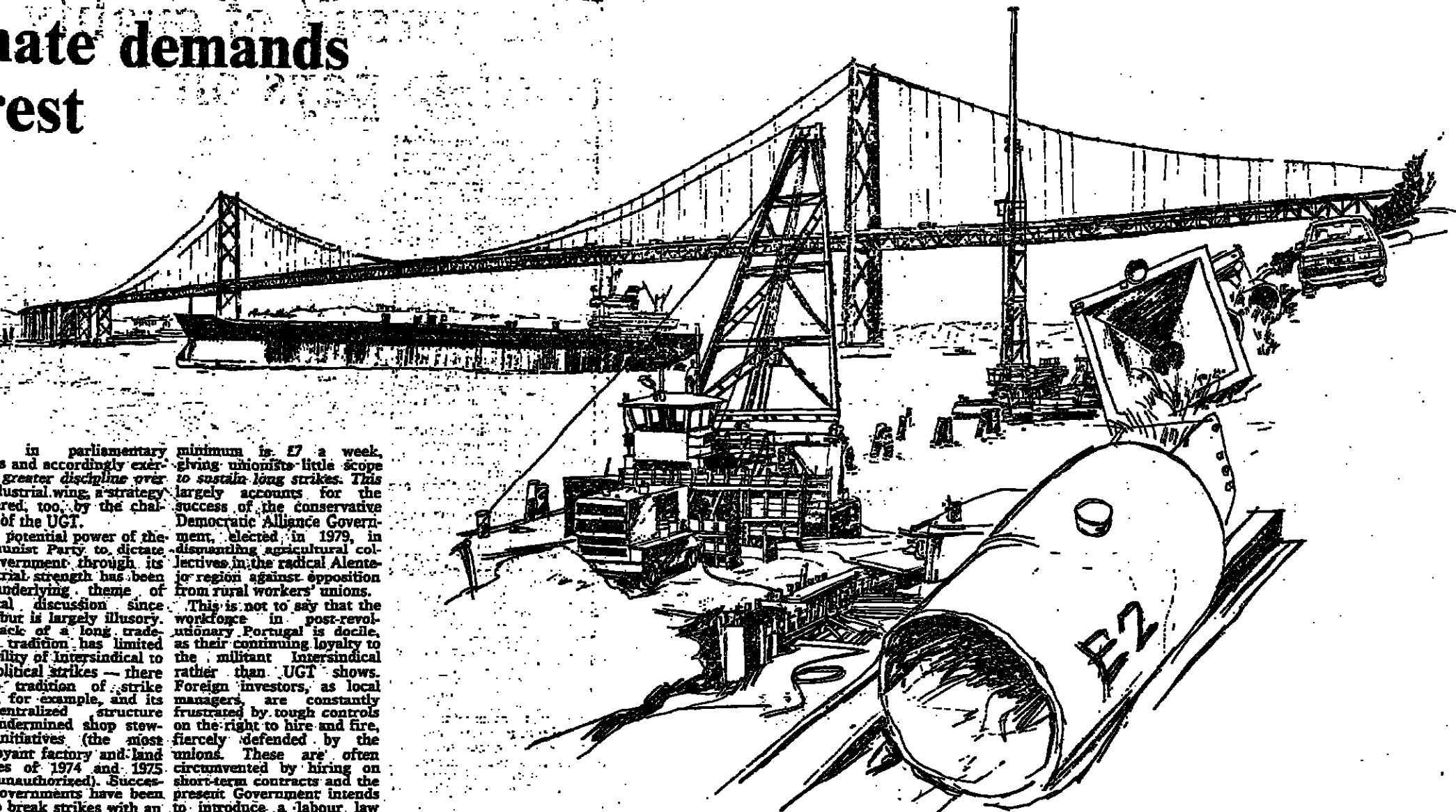
industrial sector, graduates must seek work in a Civil Service where their talents are underpaid and their aspirations frustrated by nineteenth-century bureaucratic practices.

The 1974 revolution introduced procedures for regular consultation between government and labour leaders, but

there are inevitable breakdowns, reflecting the newness of the experiment. This happened in April when Senhor Eusebio Marques de Carvalho, the Administrative Reform Minister, who resigned on May 31, caused outrage in the labour movement on the eve of a national civil service strike. He

appeared on television to make sweeping accusations of irresponsibility and malfeasance by civil servants. The dispute was inflamed to a point where calm could be restored only by some heavy footwork on the part of the Government.

Jill Carlton



The suspension bridge across the Tagus was opened in August 1966. To mark the revolution in 1974 its name was changed to Ponte 25 de Abril.

## State banks to increase their capital

After the 1974 revolution, Portugal was turned into Europe's political laboratory. Seven years later, those who had invested in the country should turn their eyes back to Portugal, where a revolution is about to overtake the financial markets.

By the end of this year, according to Senhor Joao Morais Leitao, the Finance Minister, every company in which the state has a stake will have shares traded on the stock exchange. The Government is also working on fiscal incentives to make it worth while for privately owned companies to go public in another effort to bring the long-dormant Lisbon and Oporto stock exchanges back to life.

In the next six months, Senhor Leitao promises, the main public sector companies such as the National Steel Mill, the telephone company and the huge chemical firm, Quimigal, will have issued bonds worth 70,000 escudos (nearly £800m). As the first bond issues since the revolution by the Banco do Fomento Nacional and the electricity

company (EDP) earlier this year were vastly oversubscribed, the Government is placing great hopes on this device to mop up excess liquidity.

In May, one of the main nationalized banks, the Banco Espirito Santo, almost quadrupled its working capital to 4,000m escudos (nearly £30m). It was a measure that had been greatly overdue and the other state-owned commercial banks, long criticized for being under-capitalized and for having too high a gearing ratio, are expected to follow suit soon.

Portugal's entire banking legislation, dating back to 1911, was still arguing that there was no point in acquiring computers to replace cheap and plentiful clerks, is being brought up to date to adapt to the requirements of the European Economic Community. But most important of all, the Government is pressing ahead with plans to throw banking and insurance open to private investment for the first time since the great

wave of nationalizations of 1975.

The Government earlier this year licensed an investment fund, formed by 13 leading private firms, including the country's leading wine and textile exporters, and this will act as the nucleus of a wholesale bank once the law is changed.

Two of the great business families which dominated Portugal before the revolution, the Melos and the Espirito Santos, are also among the investment companies that will put them back in the banking business with the help of the compensation they are finally to be paid for their nationalized empires.

But it was the revolution which put an end to the traditional mattress economy of the Portuguese. A cycle of high inflation, whose beginning coincided with the fall of the dictatorship, forced the Portuguese to drag their savings from their hiding places under the bed and deposit their money with the banks instead.

The trouble is, according to the Minister of Finance, that there is now far too much on term deposit with the nationalized banks, and that the bureau-cracy-plagued banks are not capable of channelling this money where the economy needs it. A punitive tax on interest earned on deposit accounts is being increased to 18 per cent to nudge the Portuguese into changing their habits.

More and more foreign banks are opening representative offices in Portugal, ready to bid for lucrative corporate business once their international clients discover the advantages of investing there.

The Bank of Portugal is creating short-term treasury papers to make more flexible monetary instruments available to the banks. Leasing and factoring are suddenly fashionable words.

The Portuguese are, in fact, beginning from scratch after a political revolution that drew some very old-fashioned dust covers over their financial system.

This is the profile the Minister of Finance drew of what he called Portugal's small, inefficient and obsolete financial system: "Credit for farming and housing is

insufficient because there are no specialized institutions to handle the kind of finance that is needed. Credit for investment is almost nonexistent and the truth is that most of Portugal's productive investment is financed by dangerously short-term domestic or foreign loans. Leasing plays only a small role and Portuguese insurance companies are losing out to foreign ones."

Opening a recent parliamentary debate on allowing private banks to return, Senhor Leitao said: "Enclosed within a state monopoly, those who work in the banking and insurance sectors feel trapped in a rigid system bordering on a Civil Service in which merit receives every day less recognition and where corruption is beginning to rear its head while productivity declines all the time."

The warning to unimaginative managers of the nationalized banks could not be clearer. The Government is convinced that healthy competition is the best way to make the state-owned banks become more efficient. And the three existing foreign-owned private banks, Banco do Brasil, Balsa and Credit Franco-Portuguese, the only ones which escaped nationalization, are really far too small to offer the kind of competition that is needed.

Portugal's nationalized banks are busy opening new branches both at home and abroad, but are still themselves too small and weak. Although bank mergers are notoriously difficult in Portugal a few will be needed before the country can host a really European-sized bank and there have been recent hints that at least part of one or two of the smaller ones, such as the Banco Borges e Frazao or the Banco Figueira e Frazao, may be sold.

The Government also intends to draw up tight regulations imposing steep minimum equity requirements on the banks. The Finance Minister promised legislation to prevent what he described as "any undesirable promiscuity between banks, industry and agriculture."

The new banking rules, the mergers, anti-trust legislation, the revival of the stock exchange, quite apart from the creation of new banks, will all require a great deal of time.

Setting strictly unrealistic programmes has been the hallmark of all Portuguese governments since the revolution. This one has the advantage of having a longer life expectancy than any of its predecessors because the next general elections are not due until 1984 and it has a comfortable Parliamentary majority.

But the list of all the tasks that the Government must deal with to modernize Europe's most backward economy in time for Portugal's planned entry into the EEC in 1984 is formidable.

The most complicated and politically sensitive of these tasks is, probably, allowing the return of private banks and, although credit must be given for this Government's effort, it may be taking off more than it can chew.

Anthony Charles

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## The pursuit of quality tourism pays off

Portuguese tourism arrived at a crossroad two years ago and, rightly, it has proved, did not change direction.

By carrying straight on in pursuit of the quality market, tourism has covered from the slump that followed the 1974 change of political direction and again accounts for about 5 per cent of Portugal's gross national income.

The decision to concentrate on quality rather than mass tourism was not difficult to make. Portugal is a small country and could not cope with a great influx of tourists. In any case the experience of neighbouring Spain with its uncontrolled hotel development was suitably chastening.

Planning applications are vetted rigorously, and, although incentives for overseas hotel developers to build in Portugal are attractive, and likely to be further improved by the end of this year, the Government is anxious that standards should be high and that Portugal's reputation as a tourist centre remain untarnished by inadequate or unfinished hotels.

Tour operators in Portugal have found that people who have never been there are inclined to assume that it is exactly like Spain, and for this reason they have concentrated their marketing activities on highlighting the contrast between the two countries.

One result has been that Portugal is now the favourite holiday area for the Spanish themselves. The abolition of passport controls between the two countries has been the main reason, but the Spanish have found Portuguese hospitality, food and drink as much to their taste as the British have done for years. In 1976 just over a million Spanish holiday-makers crossed the border, last year five million came.

This marketing approach has also resulted in the country's sporting facilities being publicized, and British sports clubs will soon be receiving details of a new programme of activity holidays aimed at groups rather than individuals.

The establishment of a sports holiday complex at Vale do Lobo on the Algarve with the tennis courts and teaching organized by Britain's Wimbledon star Roger Taylor has been so successful that more are being considered.

To capitalize on the country's sporting facilities the Portuguese National Tourist Office in London has relaunched its "Sportugal" campaign. Market research has shown that there is an estimated £1,000m worth of tourist business available in the sports-related market.

Water sports of all types are available at most coastal resorts, and courses are plentiful, interesting and

uncrowded, and facilities for most other sports are available through hotels and local clubs. Equipment can often be hired locally, although it pays to arrange this as far in advance as possible.

The promotion of sporting holidays and marketing campaigns aimed at the conference market brought in more overseas earnings without adding massively to the numbers of tourists, for it is the unspoiled nature of the country which has always been Portugal's main asset, particularly as far as the British are concerned.

The links between Britain and Portugal are as strong as ever, despite several unfortunate incidents during the tour of the 1974 revolution when British land-owners in the Alentejo had their property confiscated.

Realism has been restored, with the Portuguese adopting the attitude that as long as it is for the good of the country it is immaterial if

local businesses and property are foreign-owned, and the Foreign Investment Code has been seen as working to the advantage of both investor and the nation.

Much of the income from the code and from tourism is being ploughed back into the industry and basic services have been improved to speed up internal communications and to take best advantage of more modern airport facilities and better services by the national airline, TAP-Air Portugal.

So far much of the inward investment has come from Holland, Scandinavia and West Germany, but tourist authorities hope British hotel groups will soon take advantage of the strength of sterling against the escudo — the exchange rate has almost doubled in sterling's favour in five years — and the lack of British exchange controls.

The exchange rate makes Portugal a particularly attractive destination for the

British, especially if the Portuguese preoccupation with relaxed quality holidays is carried to its logical conclusion and a fly-drive package is booked. Since there is now no direct United Kingdom-Portugal ferry service and the drive through northern Spain to the border at Vilar Formoso is worth a touring holiday in its own right it makes sense to fly from Manchester or London to Oporto or from London to Oporto and pick up a hire car at the airport.

Then it is only a matter of selecting a route along the coast or inland to one of the many *pousadas* which participate in the scheme — although flexibility is the keynote and accommodation can be arranged anywhere available.

The *pousadas* are scattered throughout the country, often off the beaten track, and many are castles or monasteries which have been modernized to standards set

by the Government. Prices range from £10 to £17 a night for bed and breakfast for a couple sharing a room, with stops often limited to four nights in the high season.

A distinct advantage of this type of holiday is that it makes more accessible the north of the country, the Minho, perhaps Portugal's most beautiful and most interesting region. By car, narrow roads can be explored alongside tumbling trout-filled mountain streams, sandy beaches discovered, local food and wine enjoyed, and a visit to the port-producing Douro valley anticipated.

It is not lack of imagination which leads every tourist guide book to suggest a trip to the port lodges. It is simply that a welcome awaits which makes a perfect end to a holiday, or sets the tone at the start of what should be a memorable trip.

David Young

## Symbolic dart replaces the sword

A Portuguese *matador* is no glamorous star of the bull-ring, but merely a humble slaughterer in an abattoir. And while *corridos* are as popular in Portugal as in Spain, the bull is put to death by the sword in the ring. The Portuguese count was gored to death in the arena before the eyes of the entire court. By some quirk of reasoning or compassion, the reigning *torero* decreed that from then on the fighting bulls would leave the ring alive (nowadays ending up as joints and steaks in the butchers), but had to have the tips of their horns sheathed in leather.

Such is the historic pattern of Portuguese bullfighting in the *Spao*. Age Resplendent in a gold-embroidered coat of silk or velvet, a plumed rickon hat and shining knee-boots with heavy, box-like stirrups and silver spurs, the *torero* riding a fearless, caparisoned stallion enters the bullring to the fanfare of a post-horn.

With provocative, mincing steps, the unprotected horse edges close to the waiting bull as its rider cries "En, touro, zuro". "Here, bull, come on bull". The beast soon reacts to the challenge and charges headlong "like a black thunderbolt", as one

Portuguese writer puts it, at the horse and rider. A flick of the reins, and the horse side-steps and escapes the tossing horns in a series of elegant dressage that dates back to the Napoleonic wars, and, like the *matador* who drag down the bull for sport, is seen only in the Portuguese ring.

Swiftly, the *cavalheiro* plants a peribonito dart like a Spanish *banderilla* in the bull's shoulder. Always in perfect harmony, the *cavalheiro* and his mount manoeuvre to within inches of the rampaging bull after galloping around the ring. Back after barb is lodged and the crowd goes wild as the *cavalheiro* — still wearing, remarkably, his three-cornered hat — leans down to pat the bull's head.

His quota of darts having been planted, the *cavalheiro* is popular as any film idol, leaves the arena and the enraged bull to the wranglers. Known as *forcados*, they wear "nightcaps", mottled waistcoats, leggings and scarlet ties and might be bank clerks, young doctors, architects and so on anxious to display their *macho*.

Imitating the youthful warriors of Minoan Crete millennia ago, the leader of a

line of eight *forcados* strides towards the growling bull, shouting insults and gesturing wildly. When the man is only a few feet away, the bull charges, and the clash is told by the beater track, swept off his feet like a doll.

As he clutches the horns, and is worried like a rat in the grip of a terrier, his companions dash forward and by sheer weight of numbers, with one man clinging to the tail, force the beast to its knees.

What happens if their hazardous, almost foolhardy, technique fails? Quite simply, the *forcados* are tossed around like autumn leaves or trampled underfoot. It was told by the bullfight critics of a leading Portuguese daily that there are even one or two — rarely seen — women *forcados*. Every act that goes to make up the Portuguese bullfight earns its applause and trophies of flowers, hats and other tributes tossed to the performers.

Like the Spanish *matador*, a good and particularly brave *espada* is a great crowd-pleaser. One I watched in the great Lisbon bullring recently, Antonio Portugal, was as handsome and agile as any of the breed. In his

peacock's costume, he stood bare-headed on tiptoe with a barb held high in each hand and awaited the wrath of the bull. With grace and split-second precision, he leaped back from the falling horns and, to a thunderclap of cheers, embedded both darts in the bull's flesh. After repeating this display, he hobbled close to the bull on his knees and slowly, contemptuously, turned his back on it.

Antonio having mimed the death-thrust of the sword, a dozen steers and their herdsmen wearing the red and green national colours entered the ring to lead the bull back to its pen under the stands.

All other aspects apart, the Portuguese claim that their form of bullfighting is more sporting than elsewhere. And they refuse to see a contest of intelligence versus man and a bull as a symbol of evil to the ancients.

"For us," said a *cavalheiro* from the bull-breeding region of Santarem, "the bullfight is a display of elegance, artistry and, yes, bravado in which the bull is merely an instrument".

John Fawcett

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If President Reagan were now to announce a delay in cutting taxes or make more selective cuts the effect on interest rates, indeed on general confidence, would be swift. There would then be the prospect of lower public borrowing with a balanced budget, which is bound to raise hopes of greater price stability. There would be less speculative borrowing of money, so reducing money market pressures and bringing about a lowering of United States interest rates without the central bank having to make the slightest change in its anti-inflation money policy. Such an approach would probably bring about greater currency market stability also, and so ease the foreign exchange problems besetting nations such as Britain which have economic difficulties enough of their own making.

the nuclear powers must also join together to bolster the verification and inspection procedures of the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose conditions all signatories to the NPT are bound to observe. A sense of urgency and common will are now required if the world is to avoid the fast approaching nightmare of regional nuclear conflict.

the difference between the two scales assuming as is generally likely, the disadvantaged civil servants would then be accumulated as deferred pay.

In justice, the deferred pay should attract interest, and there should be limits to the deferment. It might be for instance, and very suitably, become payable on the Dissolution of the Parliament that authorised it, less consumer demand needed, or, in individual cases and choice, on withdrawal or retirement.

**From Mr J. E. Hoogson**  
Sir, Your report (June 2) on  
"Service drainings" in  
adjoining the Norfolk Broads gives  
a misleading impression of  
the position. The marshes referred to  
have been drained and farmed for  
centuries; and, being below high-tide  
levels, depend entirely on pumped

**Hindsight**  
*From Dr. and Mrs R. G. Jones*  
Sir, Your new diary may be unhappy  
to correct its assumption (June 5) that  
few 10-year-olds read its particular

A main element in that belief was the experience of a seat-belt law in Victoria, Australia. I pointed out two years ago in the House of Commons the absurdity of the argument of argument erosion. Upon and of the dizzy extrapolation of figures from the Victoria statistics. For over the same period of time in England, with no seat-belt law, the fall in deaths and injuries was greater than in Victoria and, in fact, in each case it was due to the oil crisis.

Since then statistics have flowed in from countries representing over 40% of the car-use of the world.

summer's day the silvery lead roof  
of Old Cathedral shimmering, visible  
for miles across the fens, with the  
great vault of the sky above:  
Uninspiring indeed!  
Yours faithfully,  
HAYES TREEN,  
The Vicarage,  
Bishop's Hull,  
Taunton.  
June 6.

---

the odd fish which has escaped from  
the breakfast plate, bacon fat and  
other evidence of having been read  
during the morning meal.

When this covered the trip to

From Mr Gordon Cook  
Sir, I endorse the Reverend Brian Doolan's call (June 4) for a strong and imaginative policy on the future of the Church's inner-city plant, and would add that in very many cases the great Victorian churches he identifies are capable of adaptation to contemporary needs at far lower financial and environmental cost than the provision of new buildings.

Yours faithfully,  
**GORDON COOK,**  
Chairman of Trustees,  
The Churches Community  
Development Consultancy,  
17 Scott Lane,  
Shordingle,  
Bromley.

In a whimsical moment I called the building a "gazebo". The reply from the Borough Planning Officer asked me, "what provision was it intended to make for the storage of a 'gazebo' food," as this might be detrimental to the amenities of the conservation area.

The borough's fee for this application was £50.

Yours faithfully,  
**RAYMOND ANDREWS**  
Sloane Street, SW1

ours faithfully,  
RAYMOND ANDREWS  
Sloane Street, SW1  
June 4







Why petrol  
will cost  
more, page 19

# Business News

THE TIMES June 10 1981

Watchmakers'  
battle with  
Japanese, page 19

- **Stock markets**  
FT Ind 545 down 2.3  
DM 24010 down 50 pts  
FT Gilt 65.81 up 0.44
- **Sterling**  
\$1.9405 down 5 points  
Index 94.6 down 0.1
- **Dollar**  
Index 109.5 down 0.1  
DM 2.4010 down 50 pts
- **Gold**  
\$456.50 down \$16
- **Money**  
3 mth sterling 131-13 1/2  
3 mth Euro \$ 184-18  
6 mth Euro \$ 174-16 1/2

## IN BRIEF

### Reprieve for Danish shipyard

The Danish Government has given a new export credit guarantee to Copenhagen's Burmeister and Wain shipyard to solve an acute cash crisis and permit the completion of one of the world's largest order portfolios.

The move saved the huge shipyard from almost certain collapse. The Ministry of Industry and Trade had rejected a credit guarantee last week, saying that it was not convinced that management moves to increase productivity were sufficient.

It changed its mind after the shipyard worked overtime to catch up with building delays and signed a new, binding productivity-boosting agreement.

### THF bid spurned

Sir Hugh Wontner, chairman of the Savoy Hotel group, has again urged his shareholders to ignore Trusthouse Porters' \$57m bid for the group, which he describes as wholly inadequate.

Meanwhile, the company has added another 118,000 "A" shares to its holding giving it, together with acceptances from the Kuwait Investment Office and a handful of others, 61.1 per cent of the low-voting "A" shares.

### Decca sale go-ahead

Racal Electronic's £124m sale of Decca Radio and Television to the Tatum company of Taiwan went ahead yesterday after last-minute negotiations to resurrect the deal, which collapsed in disagreement a week ago. Racal expects to receive £15m from the separate sale of Decca Radio and TV's current assets.

### Construction output

Output in the construction industry fell by five per cent in the first three months of 1981, compared with the last quarter of 1980 according to the latest provisional estimates from the Department of the Environment. The figure was 15 per cent down compared with the same period last year.

### Worker participation

Of the 93 per cent of companies which said they had worker participation schemes, 22 per cent actively involved employees in decision-making, and 26 per cent said they were looking at new ways of developing participation, according to a survey by the British Institute of Management.

### Iran backs unions

Mr Mehdi Navab, the Iranian Ambassador in Bonn, told West German trade unionists Iran would use its 25 per cent stake in Krupp Stahl to block company plans for redundancies.

Iran's Industry Minister is attending a supervisory board meeting at Krupp today.

### Fife jobs at risk

A further 2,100 jobs could be lost in the process plant industry if substantial contracts are not awarded for the construction of Esso's Mossburn ethylene plant, in Fife, the Process Plant Association said yesterday.

### Drax plant extended

A 105MW power station at Drax, near Selby in Yorkshire, has been brought into service by the Central Electricity Generating Board, eight weeks ahead of schedule.

### Computer contract

ICT's Australian subsidiary has won a £2m contract from the Mutual Life Assurance Company for the supply of computer equipment and software.

### Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.20 points down to 994.44. The \$-SDR was 1.1522. The £ was 0.590128.

## Dispute forces up state borrowing by £1,000m

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

Industrial action by the civil servants had a smaller impact on the Government's borrowing requirement and monetary growth in May than had been generally expected.

Even so, the Treasury estimates that the effect on tax receipts was to inflate the central government borrowing requirement by just over £1,000m during the month.

That means for the first two months of the present financial year the central government borrowing requirement has been £5,244m compared with £3,288m in the same period last year.

The estimated effect of the civil servants' action on monetary growth in the May banking month (the five weeks to May 20) was 1/4 to 1/2 per cent in an overall sterling M3 increase of 11 per cent.

What seems clear is that revenue has been getting through to the Exchequer rather better than many outside observers suspected.

Despite the modest May increase, however, Inland Revenue receipts for the first two months of the financial year, at £3,907m, are still £481m down on the first two months of last year.

For 1981-82 as a whole, Inland Revenue receipts are forecast to rise by over £6,000m, or 18 1/2 per cent.

Overall Government revenue for the first two months of the year now totals £8,197m compared with £8,085m in April and May 1980. The Treasury says that revenue delays in the two months have cost between £2,250m and £2,500m, and between £3,000m and £3,500m since the dispute began.

The Government has constantly reiterated, however, that the dispute does not undermine its economic strategy. It is assumed that the bulk of the tax payments that have not found their way to the Exchequer will ultimately be recovered.

On the expenditure side, supply services, which cover the largest part of departmental spending, appear to be growing much more in line with forecast this year. Over the first two months this expenditure has been running 8.2 per cent ahead of last year.

To the extent that the Government is having to borrow more, this means that it needs to sell more Government debt to the private sector or see bank deposits increase.

Although the Government has been drawing in considerable amounts of money from "calls" on gilt-edged stock and from buoyant sales of National Savings, the money supply is still estimated to have grown by about 1 1/2 per cent in May.

In the sense that this is considered a temporary inflation of the money supply, the authorities are fairly relaxed about it. Their main concern is the underlying trend in the money supply. The belief is that it is growing in line with the official target of an annual growth rate of 6-10 per cent.

What makes it especially difficult to interpret the effect of the civil servants' action on the monetary statistics is that it is hard to know the way that companies are responding.

The latest bank lending figures, suggesting a seasonally adjusted decline of about £100m in private sector borrowing in May, look extremely encouraging. But it may be that many companies are at present using "cash money" to keep their borrowings low.

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Tables, page 20

## Record cash outflow cuts trade surplus

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The biggest ever recorded outflow of capital wiped out a substantial surplus on Britain's current account in the first quarter of this year. An estimated £2,600m flowed out of the country through capital transactions made easier by the Government's abolition of exchange controls.

Much of the increased outflow, compared to the end of 1980, came from lending by the banks.

The figures for the United Kingdom's balance of payments in the first quarter of this year are complicated by the Civil Service dispute, because of which no reliable estimates are available for the trade figures or the current balance in the first quarter of 1981.

But it is thought that there was probably a current account surplus overall of about £2,000m in the first quarter. Of this, about £1,000m was explained by a surplus on invisibles such as tourism and earnings from the City. There was also a big boost to our payments from EEC refunds.

The outflows of private capital, which began with the abolition of exchange controls, are believed to have continued in the first quarter of this year. About £1,000m is thought to have gone out as a result of this.

Even more important were the banks, which stepped up their activity in the early months of this year. It is thought that about £900m in sterling was loaned to non-residents. Only about £400m came in as foreign loans to residents in the United Kingdom.

Just as banks had tended to switch into sterling last year, they moved out in the first quarter of 1981. The result was to drive down the value of the pound.

There was an estimated total of about £1,800m in private investment from the United Kingdom overseas. Of this, about £1,150 is thought to have been portfolio investment, roughly the same as in the final quarter of 1980.

There was a slight increase in direct investment by British companies overseas in the non-oil sector, accompanied by a downturn in oil spending, partly because British companies were placed at a disadvantage because they did not have access to cheap Saudi crude.

One of the most dramatic factors affecting the overall payments balance was an increase in sterling lending to non-United Kingdom residents, which was set at about £900m, roughly the same as in the fourth quarter of 1980.

The figures also show that the value of oil and gas sold from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf went up sharply in the first quarter of the year.

Tourism moved back into surplus in the first quarter after a deficit in late 1980. Credits on foreign airlines went down because the number of flights fell and sea transport was hit by the seamen's strike.

## Currency markets nervous

By Frances Williams

Leading currencies fluctuated widely in nervous and erratic foreign exchange markets yesterday. The pound, which fell below \$1.92 in New York overnight, fell sharply to \$1.9150 before dropping to \$1.9140 at the end of trading. Its five points down from Monday.

Its trade-weighted index was down 0.1 at 94.6 (average 1975 = 100) reflecting a slight weakness against most European currencies.

The dollar opened strongly, buoyed by worries about the political and military situations in Poland and the Middle East, but fell sharply to DM23.37 on rumours that the German Federal Bank was to hold a special meeting yesterday which might decide to raise interest rates.

The dollar recovered during the afternoon to close in London at DM 24.010, down 50 points from Monday. Its trade-weighted index closed down 0.1 at 105.5.

The pound was little affected by better-than-expected money supply figures, which are still confused by the civil servants' dispute. Dealers took the view that these made the prospect of a rise in minimum lending rate on Thursday even more unlikely.

But news of large capital outflows in the first quarter of the year, revealed by yesterday's balance of payments figures, prompted a slight decline in sterling in the afternoon.

## Family raises £9.9m in Comet shares sale

By Peter Wainwright

Mr Michael Hollingbery, 48, and his family yesterday sold eight million shares in the group of which he is chairman because too much of the family wealth was concentrated in one company. The sale raised £9.92m.

The £51m Comet Radiovision Services is a chain of around 200 Comet Electrical discount stores and Timberland Do It Yourself shops, as well as a jewellery manufacturer and a supplier of Polaroid metal pressing for domestic appliances and cars.

The eight million share sale, which was handled by Kleinwort Benson, the merchant banker, and Ian and Carol the broker, took less than an hour to arrange.

The price charged, 124p, was well below Monday's close of 139p. The shares have been weak since the group reported profits almost unchanged at £5.7m in the half year.

The eight million institutional placing was well received because it lowered the family shareholding from 55.1 per cent to 35.3 per cent.

The new shares in public hands will make a freer market to deal in, and the pledge to Kleinwort Benson of no further share disposals for at least two years was thought reassuring.

Capital gains tax will probably ensure that the 124p a share sale price translates to around 90p by the time it reaches the family so that the sale is worth only £7m or so.

The closest parallel to the Comet sale was the succession of disposals by Mr Selim Zilkha, founder and chairman of Mothercare.

## Strike hampers imports monitoring Disguises beat clothing quotas

By Rupert Morris

Millions of pounds' worth of cheap foreign-made jeans, sweat shirts and other clothing may be passing through British Customs undetected because of the Civil Service strike. The strike, by staff operating the Customs and Excise computer at Southend, has prevented records of shipments being kept.

The British Clothing Industries Association (BCIA) relies on these records to find out whether excessive amounts of goods are being imported from particular countries, and whether quotas should be imposed or not.

The association is concerned that, because of the strike, a number of countries which Britain does not have quota arrangements with could be flooding Britain with cheap goods undetected. Without information on shipments, it would be impossible to fix new quotas and great damage could be done to the British clothing industry.

A Customs and Excise spokesman said the strike had caused delays but records could be inspected manually. "Investigation of any illegal imports continues," he said.

The BCIA has complained to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, about imports of jeans from Hongkong which were accompanied by so-called waistcoats often too small to wear and clearly intended to avoid quota limits on jeans.

Fraud of various kinds has been a problem in clothing imports for some time. Lately the methods used have become more and more ingenious. Customs can expect to seize more than £4m worth of illegal clothing imports each year.

Recently, sweat shirts from Portugal have been pouring in, sometimes with two in a bag and marked as trackuits to bypass agreed quotas. Another ruse is for shirts to be accompanied by skimpy, unfinished shorts included simply so that the package can be designated as a suit.

The Customs fraud investigation team has been strengthened this year. It has discovered substantial consignments of dresses labelled as nightdresses, and similar abuses.

A sensitive issue which particularly worries the BCIA is the import of clothes under provisions of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement which allow unlimited imports of ethnic garments such as Indian saris or turbans, not normally made in Britain. The association fears that ordinary shirts and dresses are being smuggled in under this disguise.



Sir Terence Beckett, CBI director-general (left), with Sir Ray Pennock, CBI president, at yesterday's meeting.

## UK may press for joint action on Japan trade

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Britain will press the European Economic Community to enforce restrictions on Japanese imports if the existing industry-to-industry voluntary restraint agreements break down.

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, emphasized yesterday after a 90-minute discussion with leaders of the Confederation of British Industry that Community action would be possible within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and through EEC legislation.

But he stressed that such a move would be entered into only in the last resort since the British Government firmly believed that voluntary restraint pacts negotiated at industry level were less provocative than Government action.

The CBI called for the meeting with Mr Biffen after its policy-making council last month adopted a toughly worded policy document on trade with Japan. Its tone had worried ministers. Yesterday's meeting appeared to have made some considerable progress in assuring business leaders that the Government was conscious of the growing problems faced by industry and of the need for a Community approach.

Industry leaders have expressed concern at the attacks being made by the Japanese on particular sectors of industry and at the growing trade imbalance which in the United Kingdom this year is likely to reach £1,400m and for the EEC's trade with Japan a total of £5,000m.

Speaking after their meeting with Mr Biffen, Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI's director general, said: "There is very distinct Government support for our concern and what we want to do is to have import controls. But we do want the Japanese to understand our position."

Industrialists' fears have been heightened by the sharp deterioration in the United Kingdom's trade deficit with Japan in the first two months of this year and by the possible repercussions for Europe of the recent pact between Japan and the United States for Japan to restrict car shipments to North America.

But Mr Biffen emphasized the importance which the Government attached to the voluntary agreements, which cover about 25 per cent of Japanese imports into Britain, including cars and certain consumer electronics.

Britain's concern will be strongly expressed during ministerial discussions next week when Mr Zenko Suzuki, Japanese Prime Minister, and other Japanese ministers visit London. The next occasion will be the summit meeting in Ottawa next month where Japan is scheduled to present a paper on international trade. By that time British ministers are hopeful that the Community and the United States can agree a common approach.

Rising Sun and solar energy. Business Diary page 19.

## Lotus in new car deal with Toyota

By Peter Waymark

Lotus, the sports car manufacturer, has signed an agreement with Toyota which could lead to the Japanese company supplying engines and other important components for a new Lotus model in the mid-1980s.

Lotus has been evaluating 1.6 and 2-litre twin-cylinder engines from Toyota for a

## Call for customs duties to benefit Third World

From John Earle, Rome, June 9

Signor Umberto Agnelli, Fiat deputy chairman, today proposed that Japanese products entering Western Europe and North America should be subjected to customs duties which would be used for the benefit of Third World countries suffering from the effects of Japan's trading behaviour.

At the same time, social welfare levels in the West should be cut to increase productivity. Resulting increases in the gross domestic products of Western countries should also be spent on productive investment in the Third World.

Signor Agnelli, younger brother of the chairman of Italy's biggest private company, was speaking at a seminar on West's economic relations with Japan two days before the arrival of Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, who is touring European capitals, including Britain.

Japanese sales penetration was encroaching destructively on European productive capacities, Signor Agnelli said. It was reckoned that every 100,000 Japanese cars imported caused the loss of 13,000 jobs.

## Safeway's £20m plan for 14 new stores

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Safeway Food Stores, the United Kingdom subsidiary of the United States-based Safeway stores group, is to spend more than £20m to the end of 1983 on building 14 new stores in England and Scotland, creating 1,610 jobs.

It is part of a longer-term investment plan which is expected to increase Safeway's number of stores by more than a half by 1986 when the chain expects to have 140 outlets. Total spending by then is expected to be in excess of £70m.

Safeway, which claims 2.5 per cent share of the grocery and fresh food market, is among the top eight multiple chains in Britain. The store openings to 1983 will increase its selling area by nearly a fifth because most of the new developments are in the superstore league.

They will include in-store bakeries and off-licences. Some will also have pharmacies, the first being at Livingston, West Lothian, where a new store is to open next month.

Only one other multiple chain, BATA's Mainstop superstores, has plans so far for in-store pharmacies.

Another Safeway Store in Scotland will be at Falkirk, others in the 1983 development programme being at Blackheath, London; Abbeylea, Gloucester; Leigh-on-Sea, Essex; Potters Wood, Kent; Walton-on-Thames, Surrey; Larkfield, Kent; Barbican, London; Verwood and Bearwood, Dorset; Moreton, Wirral; Acocks Green, Birmingham; and Wilmshurst, Cheshire. Six of the stores are expected to open this year. Most of those in the 1983 programme have selling areas of 20,000 square feet or more.

All feature extensive car parking in line with current thinking on superstore developments which tend to attract car-borne shoppers on their more weekly or fortnightly buying expeditions.

## US BANKS' FACILITIES EXTENDED

Washington, June 9.—The Federal Reserve Board has unanimously authorized American banks to establish international banking facilities in the United States from December 3.

In approving the facilities, the board said it would assure that the facilities participate only in international banking and thus are not used to evade controls on domestic banking.

The facilities would accept international deposits and make loans free of domestic United States reserve requirements and interest rate ceilings.

Establishment of the facilities has been sought by a number of domestic United States banks especially in New York as a means of competing more effectively in Euro dollar banking.—AP-Dow Jones

# EIS

## Group Ltd

Process, Mechanical and Aircraft Engineers

At the Annual General Meeting of Electrical and Industrial Securities Limited, held on June 9th, it was resolved to change the name to EIS Group Limited, and the Chairman, Mr. M. O. Walters, reported that:

- \* For the ninth successive year, EIS increased its turnover, profits and dividend.
- \* The Rights Issue was fully taken up and the proceeds exceeded £2.1m.
- \* Premier Precision Limited and Horstman Defence Systems Limited have been successfully integrated into EIS.
- \* EIS Group turnover and profits are ahead of last year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, 6 Square Square, London SW1W 8EE. Telephone: 01-730 9187

## PRICE CHANGES

<b>Rises</b>					
AAC	23p to 68 1/2	Peko Walsend	10p to 50 1/2		
Barclays Bank	13p to 41 1/2	Polly Peck	25p to 28 1/2		
Rk of Scotland	20p to 37 1/2	Centrust	27p to 35 1/2		
Cornell Dresses	10p to 15 1/2	Standard T Chart	10p to 13 1/2		
Global Nat Res	20p to 92 1/2	Vesper			
<b>Falls</b>					
Cawoods	12p to 20 1/2	Metal Box	10p to 18 1/2		
Crouch D	15p to 20 1/2	MM Holdings	9p to 27 1/2		
Dixons Photo	9p to 15 1/2	Nigata Explor	15p to 35 1/2		
Kode Int	10p to 30 1/2	Shell Trans	6p to 34 1/2		
ICI	6p to 27 1/2	Union Discount	10p to 44 1/2		



A personal letter to win £40m bus order

## Leyland resorts to new tactics

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Leyland Vehicles yesterday resorted to unconventional tactics to win a £40m order for 525 double-decker buses which will be decided by the West Midlands Passenger Transport Committee today.

It is the largest order to be placed this year and covers deliveries over the next three years.

Leyland dispatched a car and driver from its headquarters at Leyland, Lancashire, to make a 250-mile round trip to deliver a personal letter from Mr Ken Maciver, managing director of Leyland Bus, to each of the 16 members of the committee.

The letter noted that recent statements in the press implied that preference would be given to a local bus manufacturer (Metro-Cammell, Birmingham) to protect jobs in the area.

Mr Maciver pointed out that the £75m Leyland spent on West Midlands components last year was far more than the value of Leyland buses and trucks sold in the area.

If Leyland adopted a policy of not buying from those areas where the local authority did not permit it to compete on its commercial merits the consequences for the West Midlands would be serious.

He warned that the bus industry was facing a crisis in which survival in its present form could not be taken for granted.

"The orders currently being placed by the Passenger Transport Executives and other major operators which are 50 per cent down in some cases will not support bus manufac-



Leyland's new double-decker bus on a passenger trial in central London.

ture on its present scale and contractions and reductions are now inevitable."

The letter added that the placing of orders for purely local interests would lead to a fragmentation of the bus industry.

At the same time as the driver was making his rounds, shop stewards from Metro-Cammell were lobbying Mr Gordon Morgan, the leader of the controlling Labour group on the county council, and also chairman of the passenger transport committee.

They pointed out that already more than 600 jobs — about half the workforce — were being shed at Metro-Cammell's plant because of a huge fall in orders.

The latest blow was last week's decision by London Transport to place an order for 275 buses worth £20m with Leyland when Metro had expected to share in the work.

Mr Morgan told them that he was elected to protect local jobs, and they came away satisfied that Metro-Cammell would be awarded the bulk of the order.

However, the Birmingham company can expect little sympathy from Leyland. During the past two years, while the state-owned company has been struggling to get its new Titan double-decker into volume production, Metro-Cammell has been awarded substantial orders originally earmarked for Titan.

It was the sole supplier to the West Midlands during this period. The closure of the Park Royal plant in west London because of unsatisfactory productivity and the search for a new home for Titan has now been resolved. It is in full production at the Watlington National Bus plant and Leyland is determined to recover lost ground before the Government bus subsidy is phased out in two years.

## Putting a value on credit cards

From Mr D. J. Armour

Sir, It is welcome news that the Department of Trade is reconsidering its position over credit card trading (May 30). The rather naive assumption behind the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendation (that cash discounts be permitted) was that the customer would benefit from the discounts which retailers would offer on being freed from the credit card company's insistence on their transactions being at the same terms as cash or cheque sales.

Instead, as anyone involved in retail business could have foreseen, petrol customers at most garages have been paying surcharges; in effect, paying the commission charge for the garage.

Credit card transactions should be a very welcome form of business to any retailer, particularly extended-service petrol retailers who rely heavily on casual labour to keep going. Credit card transactions are 100 per cent secure for the retailer as long as he follows a few common sense rules.

It may not be appreciated

generally that credit card vouchers are treated as cash at banks; the account of the payee is credited immediately (cheques can take several days to be cleared). However, the credit card voucher possesses none of the disadvantages of cash; it has no value except to the payee and no float need be kept to meet change requirements.

In a case of doubt for example, card date-expired transactions need not be refused; a short telephone call will usually transfer the risk to the credit card company. With more widespread usage of cards the habitual Saturday evening journey to the night safe or expensive cash collection by secure vehicles would become unnecessary for the retailers.

These are the advantages which the retailer gets from his credit card business (apart from any question of extra sales); well worth the commission charge, I suggest. Yours faithfully, D. J. ARMOUR, 64 Elton Close, Hampton Wick, Kingston, Surrey. 30 May.

## French way of doing business

From Mr F. S. Law  
Sir, You very kindly allowed me to use this column on a previous occasion, when I pointed out the very impressive, also almost ruthless, way in which the French deal with "overseas projects".

The recent reduction in the sales agreement with the United Arab Emirates must surely teach us a lesson.

In France, the cooperation between industry and government departments is very close and has reached a level of total confidence between the parties concerned.

I know of cases where the French Government, through one of its ministers, made sure that competing firms would not only form a consortium, but would be completely open with each other in their pricing policies, and having reached agreement, would then jointly use the help of one of the major banks to produce a package which was so attractive that the prospective customer had no alternative but to accept it. It struck me as an admirable example of how national priorities override individual companies' aims and ambitions.

Just as important is the fact that no minister in France will be allowed to make a statement about a contract as yet assigned by the prospective customer. The discipline shown particularly under President Giscard, on this issue, was quite astonishing. Yet the French seem to have understood that, when dealing with Middle East countries in particular, it is very unwise indeed to make premature announcements of one's success, before the customer has actually signed the contract. A premature announcement may well endanger the contract being signed at all.

We must hope that the example of the United Arab Emirates contract will serve at least as a lesson to be remembered on future occasions. Yours faithfully, F. S. LAW, 61 Cadogan Square, London, SW1. June 2.

## Panaceas of the thirties

From Miss Heather Harvey

Sir, In the almost prehistoric times when I read economics at Cambridge, we were told to eschew what was called "the work-fund fallacy". Briefly, if credited, that fallacy maintained that there was in the economy a static volume of available "work", and that unemployment could be alleviated, if not eventually cured, by redistributing that "workfund" among the labour force by abolishing overtime and shiftwork, lowering the retiring age, and generally employing three workers to do what two had done before.

This proposition, we were told, ignored its own consequences: lower return on fixed capital, higher unit costs, reduced demand reduced employment, etc. Other things, in the ritual phrase, were not going to stay equal but would enter a declining spiral.

On the other hand, I see little or no analysis of why circa 10 per cent unemployment persisted into the outwardly booming years 1938 and 1939. The question nagging me is this: is the British economy and its unemployment problem now and was it in 1939, only curable by a war?

Yours faithfully, HEATHER HARVEY, 15 Pelham Place, London SW7 2NQ. May 23.

## Servicing the balance of payments

From the Chairman of the Committee on Invisible Exports

Sir, The Director-General of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) is reported in your issue of June 5 as pressing for an urgent review of Britain's "poor performance in service industries". Before it comes to such a depressing conclusion, one hopes that the NEDC will differentiate, in their analysis, between the Government ser-

vice sector, the domestic distributive sector and the financial and commercial sector on which over one-third of the country's total foreign income (known as invisibles) depends.

Significant parts of the financial sector in the City of London and of the professions can claim a far higher foreign income per head than manufacturing industry and with no import bill to speak of. The service trades cannot provide an

alternative source of employment, on the scale the country now urgently needs, as Mr Chandler rightly says. But several of them remain as dynamic as any in the world. Yours faithfully, FRANCIS SANDILANDS, Committee on Invisible Exports, 7th Floor, The Stock Exchange, London EC2 1RH. June 5.

## US urged to act on money rates

Sharp differences on monetary policy emerged between the European Community and the United States during a three-day conference of monetary experts in Bruges, a commission official said.

European monetary experts were increasingly critical of the Reagan Administration's policy of "benign neglect" on monetary issues, Mr Michel Vanden Abele, adviser to Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission, said.

The European experts urged the United States to abandon its policy of non-intervention in monetary matters, arguing that President Reagan's policy has led to instability in foreign exchange rates.

## Accord in Tokyo

Dr Otto Lamsdorff, Economic Minister of West Germany, and Mr Toshio Komoto, director-general of the Japanese Economic Planning Agency, agreed in Tokyo that high United States interest rates have been impeding the sound development of the world economy.

## Steel for China

Six Japanese steel manufacturers are to export 480,000 tonnes of rolled steel to China for July/September shipment at prices almost unchanged from previous contracts, Nippon Steel Corporation said.

## Norwegian ship order

K-S Dvigl Swan of Norway has ordered two 33,000-tonne purpose-built product carriers, each valued at \$37.5m (£19m) from Samsung Shipbuilding companies of South Korea.

## Denmark's exports

The Danish Federation of Industries says there will be hardly any increase in Denmark's industrial exports this year, and it also gave warning to the minority Social Democratic Government against new increases in direct or indirect taxes.

## Spanish wages deal

A broad-based agreement has been reached in Spain that should guarantee wage restraint in 1982. It was drawn up by the Spanish Government, the National Employers' Confederation and the country's principal unions and is due to be signed in Madrid in the next few days.

## Licensing move

Mr Eiji Toyoda, president of Toyota, indicated that Ford may not be prejudiced against concluding a licensing agreement instead of setting up a joint venture company to build Toyota cars in America.

## Arbitration talks fail

Australia's Arbitration Commission has failed to end a nine-day wage dispute that has crippled the country's communications network, industry sources said.

## Gold holdings up

South African gold holdings rose 25,083m rand (£14.3m) in May to 4,410m rand from 4,384m in April, the Reserve Bank said.

## Dutch savings plan

The Dutch finance ministry has suggested ways for the government to increase between 13,000m guilders (£2,439m) and 24,000m guilders from public spending during its four-year term.

## Crude imports down

French crude oil imports declined by 13.6 per cent during the first four months of this year, while the oil import bill rose by 25 per cent.

## Ecuador cuts output

Ecuador has announced an immediate five per cent cut in its daily oil production to 217,000 barrels a day from 228,000.

## Yen loans to resume

Japanese banks expect to be able to resume supplying yen syndicated loans to overseas borrowers.

## Lloyd's sets July date for ballot

By Richard Allen

Lloyd's has chosen July 17 for a ballot of members which could decide the fate of the purpose-product carriers, each valued at \$37.5m (£19m) from Samsung Shipbuilding companies of South Korea.

This is three days before Lloyd's representatives are to return to the Commons to give the market's response to parliamentary demands for two big changes in the Bill.

Yesterday Lloyd's members voted in favour of the introduction of a new by-law which will permit postal votes in the ballot. Mr Lloyd's present rulebook, a further vote will have to take place on June 17 to confirm this decision and then the by-law will have to be approved by the Recorder of London.

Assuming these procedural matters go through, Lloyd's 20,000 members will be asked to vote separately on parliamentary demands: first for an amendment forcing investment by brokers of their underwriting interests and secondly on a clause preventing agents who act for underwriting names from managing syndicates.

It is by no means certain that a majority of members will give approval on both counts even though the Bill could fail as a result.

Although it has accepted the divestment demands, the Lloyd's committee is known to be unhappy about the call for a split between the functions of different agents in the market.

## TOYMAKERS PLAN FOR EXPANSION

Hornby Hobbies, once the jewel in the collapsed Dunbee-Combs group, which was bought out by its directors and employees, has started expanding the workforce. The company was saved from the receiver's hands only a week ago, with the backing of a group of investors led by Guidehouse Ltd. and Citicorp Development Capital. It is now planning to increase its 1,300 workforce by 60.

Mr Karl Mueller, Hornby's managing director, who led the successful £5m rescue bid, said, "We are now in a position to open our door a bit after a difficult period". At its height in 1979, the company, which makes toy trains and cars, employed more than 2,000, but since then has seen sales slip by 20 per cent in real terms.

The Margate-based company is now expecting sales in excess of £20m this year and is on line to make up to £1.5m profits. This compares with sales in 1980 of £17m and profits of only £500,000. The expansion plan reflects an improved order book, despite a shrinking market.

## Price for Burmah's BP stake 'not unfair'

An adviser to Burmah Oil said

in the High Court yesterday he did not consider the price paid by the Bank of England to Burmah for the company's 20.1 per cent holding in BP was unfair.

Mr Robin Broadley, of Baring Brothers, appearing for Burmah, was asked by Mr Donald Rattee, QC, for the Bank, whether he would suggest the deal had been unfair.

"No, I have never suggested that," Mr Broadley said.

He agreed that he had known that the Bank, which stepped in with a rescue package for Burmah, always needed Government approval of any deal.

"So the Bank offered the best deal it could within the confines of the Government's control," Mr Rattee asked.

"Yes, that is right. We did not know as much as we do now about the liabilities of the Bank," Mr Broadley replied. Burmah is asking Mr Justice Walton to order repayment by the Bank of the current value of the BP holding, now put at £1,000m. The Bank bought the shares for £197m in January, 1975, as part of the rescue package to prevent the company going into liquidation.

The Bank is resisting Burmah's claim that the deal was unfair because the Bank took advantage of the company's distressed state and that the deal conferred undeserved advantage on the Bank.

Mr James Lumsden, Burmah's chairman at the time of the sale, said he did consider the deal was unfair. "It was an unrealistic price for a holding in BP of this size."

The Bank under instructions from the Government bought the shares at below the stock market price.

Mr Lumsden said he felt Burmah could have received a premium price for the holding, given more time.

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## Shippers get tough on freight rates

By Michael Bailey

Britain's leading shipping lines, already reeling from the effects of the seamen's strike and moves at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, face an aggressive new stance from their customers — the United Kingdom importers and exporters, through the British Shippers' Council.

The United Kingdom exporters can no longer afford to pay up to 40 per cent more on export shipments than their continental counterparts, Mr John Elliott of Metal Box, the Shippers' Council's new chairman, made clear yesterday.

The council would be scrutinising every penny spent on freight rates from now on, he said.

With names like Sir David Orr of Unilever, Sir Maurice Hodgson of ICI, and Sir David Steel of BP on the governing body, the council does not lack clout.

With recession biting deeply into company profits, the old cosy relationship between the United Kingdom shippers and shipowners was over, Mr Elliott said. The council would be looking closely at issues like higher rates from the UK and Europe within the same conference; inflexibility of conferences; and 100 per cent loyalty agreements demanded of customers.

Already the council has approached foreign lines operating outside the United Kingdom conferences and would be prepared to commend those that prove responsible and reliable to its 16,000 members, Mr Elliott said.

"We are not anti-conference, because we recognize that

conference lines provide regular service to destinations all over the world and that costs money," he told a London press briefing to launch the new-look council.

"We do not want a free-for-all on rates — the recipe for disaster because reputable lines might disappear and the new ones would hoist freight rates even higher. But there must be a relaxation of both the extent and duration of loyalty agreements."

The United Kingdom exporters have recently found they were paying higher rates than continental firms on exports of such commodities as steel, chemicals and many other things, and had lost potential markets overseas. Of four conferences approached by the council two — the South and East Africa — admitted that rates from Europe had been depressed by outside competition but declined to bring down the United Kingdom rates. Two more, the Caribbean and South America, denied there was any disparity in the United Kingdom and continental rates.

The council was taken over by the Freight Transport Association two years ago and owes its new, aggressive attitude to the staff put in by FTA to scrutinize shipping services available to British industry.

"There has been a feeling in the past that the council was totally protective of conferences," Mr Elliott said. "We see ourselves now as representing British shippers in a very competitive world market and we hope to take the conferences with us."

## Hanson to sell US plant

By Rosemary Unsworth

Hanson Trust, the industrial holding group, is to sell for £25m cash a Texas cement and ready mixed concrete business it acquired last January.

The business, which has a net book value of £13m, was taken over when Hanson bought McDonough Company for £74m. It is selling the Houston-based concrete business made £1.05m pretax profit, about 10 per cent of McDonough's profits, last year, on turnover of £36.5m.

Mr Martin Taylor, of Hanson, said last night that the group would be left with the shoe and hand tools side of McDonough, which provides the balance of the profits.

Yours faithfully, HEATHER HARVEY, 15 Pelham Place, London SW7 2NQ. May 23.

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## Important notice to all

# Eagle Star policyholders and business associates

Following the acquisition of a substantial shareholding in Eagle Star Holdings by the Allianz Insurance Company of Munich, Eagle Star wishes to assure its policyholders that the security of their contracts is in no way affected.

Eagle Star also assures its business friends and connections that its commercial independence will not be influenced in any way by this minority shareholding.

 **Eagle Star**

## Town and Country names chief executive

Mr Joe Bradley has been made chief executive of the Town & Country Building Society. He is presently general manager of the Nationwide Building Society.

Mr J. A. Nutt is to succeed Mr F. B. Doyle as chairman of Booker McConnell's engineering division. Mr Doyle is leaving on August 31 to become chief executive of the Social Democratic Party.

Dr A. G. Raper, chief executive of the Davy engineering and construction companies in the United Kingdom, has joined the board of Davy Corporation.

Mr P. T. Wright is retiring from Sedgwick Group on June 30 but will remain on the board as deputy chairman and a non-executive director until the end of the year.

Mr Ian Orr-Ewing, managing director of Anchorpac, the Boughton waste compaction equipment manufacturing company, has been appointed a director of Hearncrest Boughton. Mr Keith Purkiss, managing director of Hearncrest

Boughton, has been appointed a director of Anchorpac.

Mr Jeremy G. Thorn has become director of marketing at Staveley Foundries.

Mr Michael Gabrass is to be a manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation from July. Mr Mark Vinty becomes an assistant manager.

Mr Richard H. Tomlins has become a partner of Oscar Faber & Partners, the St Albans consulting engineers.

Mr Mark Vinty becomes a main board director of the Arrowcroft Group on July 1. Mr Harold S. Elman is the general manager of Alico UK (American Life Insurance Co.).

Mr J. H. B. Kettleley, managing director of Rea Brothers, has been appointed a non-executive director of Dufay Bismastic.

Mr David Airey, managing director of Bibby Edible Oils, has been made chairman of the Seed Crushers and Oil Processors Association (SCOPA).

Mr J. W. Richardson-Hill has joined Antony Gibbs & Sons as a director responsible for business development.

Mrs Helen Robinson has joined the board of Debenhams.

Mr W. M. Ritchie becomes managing director of John Davis & Son (Derby).

Mr Norman Hirschfield is now non-executive director of Mercvale Properties.

Mr Peter A. Miller is the new deputy chairman of Arbutnot Investment Management Services.

Mr H. A. Rees has joined the board of C. H. Beazer (Holdings).

Mr Ivor Manley, a deputy secretary of the Department of Energy, has been made a part-time member of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

Professor Bernard Atkinson has been named director of the Brewing Research Foundation. Mr J. P. U. Burr, a director of Bass, has been elected chairman of the BRF council.

Mr Martin Lampard is now a director of Allied Rediffusion.

Mr W. F. Eales has been made secretary of BUPA. Dr D. L. Gullick, former secretary, will continue as BUPA's executive medical adviser on a full-time basis. Mr Eales also takes over secretariat duties of BUPA hospitals.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Steadier course for gilts

The gilt-edged market's convalescence was taken a stage further yesterday, helped by another steady performance by sterling and better-than-expected figures on central government borrowing and money supply growth in May.

Even so, the implications from all this are still fuzzy. The underlying money supply is now supposed to have grown at around 3 per cent a month for the past three months, the kind of trend that sounds far too good to be true. To be fair to the authorities, however, they fully recognise that the margin of error may be wide, though they also feel quite strongly that the underlying trend has in fact been somewhere in the 6-10 per cent target range.

On the face of it, the May figures from the clearing banks, pointing to a seasonally adjusted fall of £100m in private sector lending look distinctly encouraging. But here again one is in the world of guesswork. Advances to manufacturing industry, for example, actually fell by £765m in the three months to mid-May. But how much of that was due to destocking, which may now be over—and how much to the effect of tax payments that have not yet been cleared? At the other end of the spectrum, moreover, one can even point to some quite disturbing developments, namely the apparent strength of personal-sector loan demand.

Meanwhile, the authorities seem to be reacting to the new firmness in period rates in the money markets by keeping ultra-short rates extremely soft. This should help prevent any danger of round-tripping over next week's June make-up day, as well as helping to contain any upward pressure on bank base rates. It is an easy game to play while the civil servants continue to disrupt revenue collection. But what happens when the civil servants return to normal working, or turn their attention to restricting government disbursements?

### Bass Betting on Coral

A loss of £3.2m before depreciation from Coral reflecting the seasonal nature of its hotels and holidays was the main reason for the unappreciated reception given yesterday for half-year figures from Bass. For including Coral for three months and after a lower surplus on property and investment sales, pretax profits edged ahead by only £1m to £51.1m and the shares responded with a 3p fall to 242p.

However, the underlying trend from the original Bass activities is much better, these figures suggest. Without Coral, sales were 16 per cent higher at £770m and profits before depreciation up by nearly 19 per cent to £89m. There was a lower contribution from the original Bass hotels which have suffered from poor occupancy rates in the United Kingdom but the poor side has turned in a resilient performance.

Bass has shared in the national drop in volume with most of the pressure falling on its national bitters. But the group's big exposure to lagers—about two-fifths of production—has stood it in good stead, for lager volume has held level and a combination of pricing and internal measures has led to a small improvement in beer margins with overall market share unchanged.

Bass is reasonably confident that the decline in beer volumes is now flattening out, although the summer weather will be an important influence on the trend. But for the rest of the year Coral should be making a firmly positive contribution even if its profits will have little impact on earnings per share because of the share dilution following the acquisition. Full-year profits could be around £130m, to give a fully-adjusted p/e ratio of a little over 12, while the one-tenth rise in the interim dividend assumes a 5.6 per cent yield, which is none too demanding a rating.

### Allianz/Eagle Star Partial victory

Everyone must be pleased with the way Allianz's tender offer for Eagle Star Insurance went yesterday, although the German company's pleasure will be dulled by its failure to reach the 29.9 per cent target and possibly by having to pay the top price.

Despite the novelty of the tender offer

in this country the procedure seems to have worked as the Stock Exchange and the Council for the Securities Industry intended. There was no unseemly scramble just before the offer closed, and small shareholders figured prominently among those accepting the Allianz price. Just as important, five working days was long enough for Eagle Star to produce a defence, while short enough to force traders to make up their mind about the price. Indeed, Eagle Star's improved dividend and asset valuation must have been significant factors in persuading 72 per cent of shareholders to stay with the company.

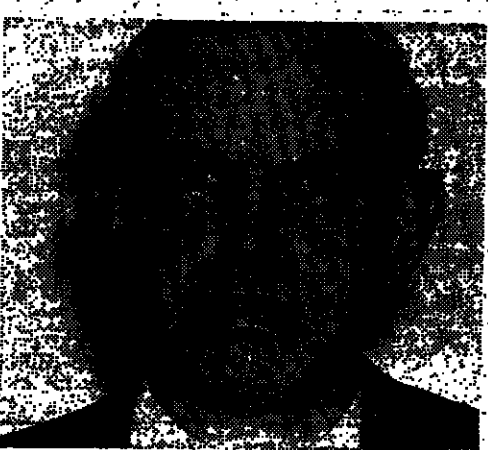
What happens next will depend in the short run on whether Allianz decides to buy in the market, although under the new rules it has to wait five working days. In the longer run, the prospective yield of around 8 per cent and the asset figure of 450p a share should underpin the Eagle Star price. More speculative support will probably come from the possibility of a full bid by Allianz and the re-awakening of the competitive sector.

Those who took profits from the Allianz offer will be looking to other insurers as investments. Sun Alliance, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Phoenix have all moved up since the purchase of Eagle Star shares started and Liberty Life has been quietly building up a 20 per cent stake in Sun Life. But a solid revaluation of the sector will only stem from others raising their dividends and, of course, from better profits.

### Offshore Banking New York names the day

After a four-year gestation period, not to mention some last minute hitches, the Federal Reserve Board in the United States has finally given its approval for the setting up of international banking facilities in New York from December.

The idea of these offshore banking facilities is that by freeing the big New York money centre banks from the Fed's reserve requirements, interest rate ceilings and local taxation, they will be able to compete more effectively with foreign financial centres, as well as at home in the commercial



Mr Patrick Neill, chairman of the council for the Securities Industry.

paper market. Henceforward, New York banks will be able to carry out their offshore business inside the United States instead of through overseas subsidiaries, where the loss of banking jobs has made the proposals of the New York banking lobby especially attractive to the New York state authorities.

Revolutionary as the proposals first seemed, most United States bankers are agreed that the initial impact will be limited. Certainly London's pre-eminence as a Euro-market centre is likely to be little affected and the main casualties will be offshore centres in the Caribbean which have intrinsically been used as booking centres for Euro-market deals purely on tax considerations.

Domestically non-New York banks will be able to take advantage of the facilities through establishing Edge Act subsidiaries, but some of the regional banks are worried that their foreign deposits could be attracted away to New York. But the Fed has gone to great lengths to avoid any leakage from offshore deposits to the domestic money supply and the BIF's should not present any problems for the authorities over monetary control.

## Why petrol will soon cost more

Malcolm Brown

The average motorist might have been forgiven for thinking that the petrol companies had taken leave of their senses. Headlines in the newspapers and on television over the past few weeks have been quite clear: the world is suffering an oil glut; there is too much crude oil around; producers have frozen their prices until the end of the year.

But yesterday there was a quite different story. Petrol prices will go up at the pumps at midnight tomorrow.

Even those blessed with only a rudimentary understanding of economics know that when there is a lot of a product on the market prices are driven down—not up.

So why will many of us be paying more for our four-star when we go to fill up the car on Friday morning?

The key to this conundrum is in two parts. First, there are a lot of different types of oil washing round the markets at present. Some is (relatively) cheap: Saudi Arabian crude costs \$32 a barrel. Some is much more expensive: North Sea oil is about \$38 a barrel (although the British National Oil Corporation has said its official price will go down to \$37.25 from July 1).

BP, the company which will be putting up its pump prices tomorrow night, is heavily geared to high priced oil from the North Sea. Other companies, such as Esso, Texaco and Mobil, have the advantage of lower-priced supplies from

Saudi Arabia. It is clear, then, that BP's costs are, for the moment, a good deal higher than those of its competitors.

The second part of the explanation lies in the fact that at present the petrol market is very flat—and has been highly competitive. Since the mid-seventies the oil companies, at times of intense competition at the pumps, have subsidised dealers. In other words, they have been giving petrol to petrol stations at a discount. In BP's case, discounts at the moment range between 1p and 20p a gallon, depending on the location of the site and the ferocity of the local competition.

### Subsidizing dealers

Anyone driving through the north-west of England, the Midlands, and even some parts of London recently will have been aware that prices are drifting downwards as petrol stations try to outdo their neighbours. Four-star petrol at 145p or 146p is not at all uncommon.

BP, through its BP and National outlets, has been in the thick of the battle. Half of its 5,000 outlets have had price support arrangements.

It is not difficult to see where that sort of arithmetic leads. On top of their already relatively high crude costs—and the normal costs of refining and preparing the petrol for the pumps

—BP has had to bear the costs of subsidizing dealers.

So, of course, have many of the other big oil companies. But because companies like Esso, Texaco and Mobil have been able to draw more heavily on the cheaper Saudi Arabian oil the burden has not been so great for them.

The cost to BP is enormous. Yesterday the company disclosed that in the first three months of 1981 BP Oil lost £37m.

In deciding to drop its support scheme BP was aware that it was taking a very large risk. The key question for BP planners was obviously: what will the competition do?

The nightmare for an oil company making such a move is that other companies will do nothing or will increase prices but not by as much as the first company. In that event motorists would pretty soon vote with their vehicles and drive a hundred yards down the road to the cheaper station.

But that kind of strategy by the competing companies has its own risks. Market shares may change radically, but for how long? Changing supply systems to cope with additional business can be costly. The cost might be worth it if the companies felt sure they could hold on to the new business.

But the international oil markets have been extremely volatile in recent years and another change in the relative prices of different qualities of crude could send

everyone quickly back to square one.

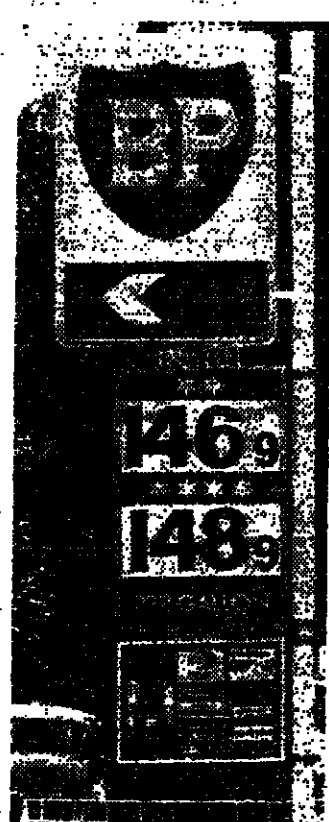
One factor which must have loomed large in BP's calculations, is that the fall of the pound against the dollar (in which oil is bought and sold) has in fact sharply increased the costs of all the companies. In short BP may be suffering more than most but it is gambling that others are not trading profitably either and will put their prices up if they possibly can.

### North Sea prices

BP was saying yesterday that by dropping the price support system it was hoping to bring the petrol price was to an end. That, of course, would only happen if the other petrol companies follow their lead.

It can hardly be coincidence that BP has launched its initiative at a time when it is pressing the British National Oil Corporation to lower its (North Sea) prices even further than the £2 a barrel which ENOC has said it is prepared to drop. But the company said yesterday that even a further fall in the oil corporation's price would not be enough to stop price increases.

BP is taking a gamble by pulling out of the price support scheme. The next few days should tell whether it was wise to take the risk or has simply let itself in for more trouble.



Photograph: Michael Clarke

Signs at a BP filling station in London yesterday: prices may be 10p higher at the end of the week.

## Swiss watches: a battle of ingenuity with the Japanese

Geneva. The heart of Swiss watch-making has missed a trick at the sight of half-a-dozen banks reluctantly forking out about £70m to keep one of the famous names of the business afloat.

The funds are for SSIH (Société Suisse pour l'Industrie Horlogère), the industry's second-largest group which includes the Omega and Tissot factories.

The rescue operation, which followed an emergency credit of some £8.5m at the turn of the year to cover salaries and pressing obligations, became inevitable when group losses in 1980 were finally established at £38m—after a mere £1m profit the previous year. With liabilities exceeding assets by almost £6m, shareholders—including some of the rescuing banks with a 30 per cent share—had to step up to the fact that their capital must be regarded as 95 per cent lost.

"We could not have obtained this aid had we not been able to persuade the banks that our group will be a viable proposition for the Swiss watch industry as a whole," said Mr Ulrich Dörm, SSIH general manager. "We shall have a much more aggressive and better equipped group for our two main brands, Omega and Tissot—after all other considerations."

Nearly half the losses were in writing-off the value of unsold stocks—a consequence of unpopular designs and styles. Turnover last year was 10 per cent down. Without the aid, the group would have been forced into liquidation with loss of some 5,000 jobs (about 3,000 of them in Switzerland).

Besides the financial transfusion, SSIH is also discussing arrangements for cooperation in research, development and possibly also in certain production lines with Swiss-based watch manufacturers. ASIAC (Allgemeine Schweizerische Uhrenindustrie)—its brands include Longines and Certina and some of the consortium banks

are among its shareholders—whose own profits have taken a knock. The two groups between them are responsible for about half the industry's total production.

These developments, however traumatic for the Jura, are only part of a process of change which has been under way for more than a decade. From more than 76,000 in 1974 the watch industry's work force is now about 45,000. The number of companies has shrunk in the same period from 1,177 to about 860. The Swiss produced 86.5 million watches and movements last year (81 million in 1979), against 87.8 million (62 million in 1979) by the Japanese—an increase for them of more than 40 per cent.

The two countries are now running an arms race fairly evenly each with about a third of estimated world production of 330,000. In 1973 the Swiss still held almost half of the market.

The force of Japanese competition is described by Le Suisse Horlogère, the industry's official organ, as "so strong, so meticulously organized and supported, that it is not a matter of industrial deployment but of calculated action to capture markets in their totality." It is a challenge, it points out, the Swiss are at a disadvantage "because of more evolved social legislation, higher wage bills and less evident backing from government."

The Swiss industry as a whole, however, does seem fairly confident that the most painful phase of "restructuring" lies behind it, in particular the consequences of initially under-estimating the impact which quartz watches would have, especially digital quartz watches. The proportion of electronic watches in this year's production will be between 25 per cent and 33 per cent.

The industry has been concentrating heavily on technological development and has come out with new products and significant progress—for ex-

ample, the world's thinnest watches," said an official of the Swiss Watchmakers' Federation. "We are now in process of putting these developments into production."

Where styling was concerned, he said, designers no longer took into account the basic technical requirements of the watch, but could offer designs based on either mechanical or electronic parts. Customers in developing countries were still hesitant about quartz watches, because of the batteries and servicing complications: The Swiss industry was therefore pushing ahead with training programmes for dealers in those countries to help them to handle electronic watches as well as they could mechanical ones.

One new product just launched is a watch with reversible faces, one a traditional analogue type (with hands) and the other a digital one. Last year the Swiss marketed a solid state simulated analogue watch (where the hands are part of

a liquid crystal display) almost simultaneously with the Japanese. What both are after, of course, is the big advance when the figures or hands of the solid-state watch without mechanical moving parts will be inherently luminous, so as to be instantly legible under all lighting conditions. Success in that will bring enormous returns.

By comparison, refinements in the direction of new, slimmer watches have lesser sales potential though appealing to a lucrative sector of the market.

Meanwhile, the inner stronghold of the Swiss industry—safe for a long time yet, probably, against any Japanese attempt at penetration—is status symbol and jewellery watches. A leading Geneva manufacturer in the former category still regards the quartz analogue watch as "more accurate but also much more delicate" than the self-winding watch on which its reputation has been built.

This confidence, however, seems to be based more on order books comfortably full for a year or so ahead than on scientific assessment of what the future may bring—such as electronic watches powered by heat from the human body.

For Swiss manufacturers in general a big worry is price. Late in entering the electronic field, the Swiss have not so far been able to compete with Far East or United States companies in cheaper products.

In medium-price categories they have only recently been able to offer serious competition against foreign imports in the shop windows of their own cities.

With the market for cheap watches kept more or less saturated, the Japanese companies are now reported to be opening a "third front" with higher-cost watches.

Alan McGregor

**"Despite the impact of recession in the U.K., the Group's strong property base and overseas interests provide a firm foundation for future progress."**

Mr. David Rhead—Chairman

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT 1981

Year ended 31st March	1981	1980
Trading Profit	£m	£m
- Investment Property	2.8	2.2
- Other U.K. Activities	3.2	5.9
- Overseas	1.3	1.0
	<b>7.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Interest	3.7	2.6
Profit before tax	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Dividend per share	4.3p	4.3p
Net assets per share	100p	91p

INVESTMENT PROPERTY—Assets have been professionally revalued at £45m, providing a further surplus over book value of £7m.

UNITED KINGDOM—The conditions in the U.K. economy have led to a major downturn in Metals, whilst Construction, Distribution and Vehicle Distribution have performed well in very difficult market conditions.

OVERSEAS—U.S.A.—The Autoparts Superstore opening programme continues.

FRANCE—Increased investment strengthens base for distribution of D.I.Y. products.

DIVIDEND—The maintained dividend reflects the Group's confidence in the future.

**lep**

L.C.P. HOLDINGS LIMITED  
PENNETT TRADING ESTATE, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY6 7JZ

## Business Diary: Rising sun and solar battery

While the barons of British industry were heading to John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, about the hiding they are getting from Japanese imports, a small group of invited academics were yesterday getting some idea of what is in store for the future.

The London branch of the Nomura Research Institute, one of the premier Japanese economic research organisations, launched its first European forum in London, entitled "Where is Japan heading?—Japan in the 1980s".

Amid all the arguments now raging between Tokyo and Brussels over their widening trade deficit the institute's Sadao Ohta, a senior consultant who worked formerly for Mitsui, was not particularly optimistic.

"European-Japanese trade frictions will continue for the foreseeable future as the trade imbalance and the productivity gap between them becomes bigger," he argued.

Meanwhile, with Japan totally reliant on imported raw materials and heavily dependent on imported food, her industrial experts have to find a home somewhere. In the technology field the Japanese are continuing to press ahead, especially in the area of alternative energy resources. Over the past six years, for example, no fewer than 1,507 patents have been lodged for solar heating systems.

The ramifications of solar power appear to be infinite and the repercussions for competitors considerable. With usual Japanese courtesy, Nomura presented each of the seminar participants with a pocket calculator—solar-powered, of course.



"You've read Sir Fred Hoyle's prediction that an ice age is imminent? I want a cooling for igloos on my desk by tomorrow morning."

It has been two months now since last I set foot in the basement of this page thanks to a bout of hepatitis.

Among the messages of sympathy was some advice from Business Diary's cartoonist, Glynn Wall, who wrote to say that "the daily grind is like a cold swimming pool—so don't jump straight in, re-immersion yourself gradually." Some hope.

Even before I got back the office was on the line, asking a man sentenced to forgo drink for six months how to reply to an invitation from a distillery to celebrate their centenary with them.

I wish I had said no when asked if I was coming in by car on my first morning back

on Monday. I stopped on the way for a haircut and by the time I got back to my vehicle I had been clipped 16 by a meter maid.

The Monday morning feeling intensified on arrival at the office, where 17 minutes later the car was towed away by the police—another 135, thanks very much.

Over at the car pound I elected to pay by credit card. The policeman at the till did not say "American Express?" She put the card through the machine, filled in the forms and, when she came to the gratuity section, smiled sweetly and said "Any tips, sir?"

I have: go by bus.

The indefatigable Geoffrey Smith, founder-director of the London Convention Bureau, was to have retired this year on reaching 65 in September. He was then to have set up his own consultancy in convention marketing, having established London as a world-class conference centre. Now he is not only going to stay on until the new year but to take over as director of the bureau's parent body, the London Tourist Board, as well.

The present director, Rodney Scrase, steps down today having decided to retire at 60. Smith will do both jobs until successors are found. London expects about 20 million visitors this year, nearly three to each resident.

organized by the United Kingdom section of the International Solar Energy Society and about 2,000 delegates and 150 exhibitors are coming from all over the world.

One of the speakers is Dr Ru-Chen Chen, of the Guang Zhou Institute of Energy Conversion of the Peoples Republic of China. He should feel very much at home, not only because he will be among fellow specialists, but because of the form the exhibition—accompanying the conference—is to take.

The conference itself will take place in the Brighton Centre, but next door in the Metropole Hotel there will be an exhibition of more than 600 presentations about the latest in solar energy. Most will be in the form of display boards not unlike the wall posters of Peking and Shanghai.

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## Banks and insurances sparkle

1. 1. The first



## Commodities



## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Begin June 1 Dealings End June 12 6 Contango Day, June

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible][illegible]



















## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by  
Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Race and Housing (1); 7.05 Geology; 7.30 BART 3: Systems Engineering; 11.00 For Schools: Colleges: Merry-go-Round; 10.12 The Mouse and the Wind; 10.30 Brazil; 10.50 Bridges; 11.02 Science: water.

11.25 You and me: For the very young.

11.40 For Schools: Colleges: Religious and Moral Education. School play about loss of Arc; 12.05 Komatiki: German lesson. Closedown at 12.30.

1.15 News; 1.30 Bagpuss. Closedown at 1.45.

2.01 For Schools: Colleges: The story of the Thunderbird, the killer whale's main enemy; 2.18 Tundra; 2.45 Descartes: Kappa. Closedown at 3.00.

3.55 Play School. The Kiwi's Wish; 4.20 Hong Kong Phooey; 4.30 The Enchanted Castle: Final part of the E Nesbit series. The children, formerly statues,

## BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Polymer Production; 7.05 Schools Council Curriculum Project; 7.30 Vinyl Chloride Production.

10.20 Gharbar: For Asian women viewers. Closedown at 10.45.

10.50 Play School: Same as BBC 1; 3.55 (The Kiwi's Wish). Closedown at 11.25.

4.50 Open University: History of Mathematics; 5.15 Companies, Computers and Unions; 5.40 The Case of William Tyndale; 6.05 Computers: Art and Artefact; 6.30 The Chemist: A piece.

6.55 Take the Mike: One hundred Brighton rappers express their fears that the council's commitment to encouraging tourism — including

are left stranded on the island. Can the ring help? 5.00 John Craven's Newsround; 5.10 Wild track: The seabird that prefers very dark nights. And David Attenborough lands on an iceberg in the Antarctic; 5.35 Paddington.

5.40 News; with Kenneth Kendall; 5.55 Regional news magazines; 6.20 Nationwide.

7.00 The Wonderful World of Disney: Part two of Child of Class: Story of a boy who tries to help a murdered girl's ghost to find rest.

7.45 Back to the Egg: Paul McCartney and Wings in a visual interpretation of the album which carries the same title as the film.

8.15 Wildlife on One: 20th Century Fox. A film, shot over a period of three years, which confirms some of the tales we hear about this animal's habits, while contradicting others. (See Personal Choice).

9.00 News; with Kenneth Kendall.

A Brighton — Centre costing £1.5 million — is seriously affecting important local facilities and changing the town's character.

7.25 News; with subtitles for the hard of hearing.

7.35 Dad You See...? The world's first TV programme analysed by a team chaired by Ludovic Kennedy. To be discussed: the play Going Gently; the documentary Westminster Palace and the hospital psychiatry drama series Maybury.

8.10 Lost Kings of the Desert: Chronicle film about Hatra, the ruined city 200 miles north of Baghdad, which twice defeated Rome's most formidable military emperors.

9.00 Rhoda: American comedy series. Searching for Marjorie Rhoda, Brenda and Benny find

him in Florida, having the time of his life.

9.25 Private Schulz: Final instalment of Jack Pulman's comedy series. A chance for Schulz (Michael Elphick) to get his hands on some of the forged fivers he buried in England after he was persecuted there during the war.

10.15 Personal Pleasures with Sir Hugh Casson. Final programme. The president of the Royal Academy explores parts of the RA building few people have the chance to see.

10.45 Newsnight. Bulletins and analysis.

11.30 The Pursuit of Power: Repeat screening of Robert McKenzie's interview with Norman St. John-Stevas, former Minister for the Arts and Commerce of the House of Commons. Ends at 12.15.

## Regions

SEE 1 VARIATIONS: BBC CYMRU (Wales); 2.15-2.30 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 7.30-7.45 pm; 7.45-8.00 pm; 8.00-8.15 pm; 8.15-8.30 pm; 8.30-8.45 pm; 8.45-9.00 pm; 9.00-9.15 pm; 9.15-9.30 pm; 9.30-9.45 pm; 9.45-10.00 pm; 10.00-10.15 pm; 10.15-10.30 pm; 10.30-10.45 pm; 10.45-11.00 pm; 11.00-11.15 pm; 11.15-11.30 pm; 11.30-11.45 pm; 11.45-12.00 pm; 12.00-12.15 pm; 12.15-12.30 pm; 12.30-12.45 pm; 12.45-1.00 pm; 1.00-1.15 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 1.30-1.45 pm; 1.45-2.00 pm; 2.00-2.15 pm; 2.15-2.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 2.45-3.00 pm; 3.00-3.15 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 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2.00-2.15 pm; 2.15-2.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 2.45-3.00 pm; 3.00-3.15 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 7.30-7.45 pm; 7.45-8.00 pm; 8.00-8.15 pm; 8.15-8.30 pm; 8.30-8.45 pm; 8.45-9.00 pm; 9.00-9.15 pm; 9.15-9.30 pm; 9.30-9.45 pm; 9.45-10.00 pm; 10.00-10.15 pm; 10.15-10.30 pm; 10.30-10.45 pm; 10.45-11.00 pm; 11.00-11.15 pm; 11.15-11.30 pm; 11.30-11.45 pm; 11.45-12.00 pm; 12.00-12.15 pm; 12.15-12.30 pm; 12.30-12.45 pm; 12.45-1.00 pm; 1.00-1.15 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 1.30-1.45 pm; 1.45-2.00 pm; 2.00-2.15 pm; 2.15-2.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 2.45-3.00 pm; 3.00-3.15 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 7.30-7.45 pm; 7.45-8.00 pm; 8.00-8.15 pm; 8.15-8.30 pm; 8.30-8.45 pm; 8.45-9.00 pm; 9.00-9.15 pm; 9.15-9.30 pm; 9.30-9.45 pm; 9.45-10.00 pm; 10.00-10.15 pm; 10.15-10.30 pm; 10.30-10.45 pm; 10.45-11.00 pm; 11.00-11.15 pm; 11.15-11.30 pm; 11.30-11.45 pm; 11.45-12.00 pm; 12.00-12.15 pm; 12.15-12.30 pm; 12.30-12.45 pm; 12.45-1.00 pm; 1.00-1.15 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 1.30-1.45 pm; 1.45-2.00 pm; 2.00-2.15 pm; 2.15-2.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 2.45-3.00 pm; 3.00-3.15 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 7.30-7.45 pm; 7.45-8.00 pm; 8.00-8.15 pm; 8.15-8.30 pm; 8.30-8.45 pm; 8.45-9.00 pm; 9.00-9.15 pm; 9.15-9.30 pm; 9.30-9.45 pm; 9.45-10.00 pm; 10.00-10.15 pm; 10.15-10.30 pm; 10.30-10.45 pm; 10.45-11.00 pm; 11.00-11.15 pm; 11.15-11.30 pm; 11.30-11.45 pm; 11.45-12.00 pm; 12.00-12.15 pm; 12.15-12.30 pm; 12.30-12.45 pm; 12.45-1.00 pm; 1.00-1.15 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 1.30-1.45 pm; 1.45-2.00 pm; 2.00-2.15 pm; 2.15-2.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 2.45-3.00 pm; 3.00-3.15 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 7.30-7.45 pm; 7.45-8.00 pm; 8.00-8.15 pm; 8.15-8.30 pm; 8.30-8.45 pm; 8.45-9.00 pm; 9.00-9.15 pm; 9.15-9.30 pm; 9.30-9.45 pm; 9.45-10.00 pm; 10.00-10.15 pm; 10.15-10.30 pm; 10.30-10.45 pm; 10.45-11.00 pm; 11.00-11.15 pm; 11.15-11.30 pm; 11.30-11.45 pm; 11.45-12.00 pm; 12.00-12.15 pm; 12.15-12.30 pm; 12.30-12.45 pm; 12.45-1.00 pm; 1.00-1.15 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 1.30-1.45 pm; 1.45-2.00 pm; 2.00-2.15 pm; 2.15-2.30 pm; 2.30-2.45 pm; 2.45-3.00 pm; 3.00-3.15 pm; 3.15-3.30 pm; 3.30-3.45 pm; 3.45-4.00 pm; 4.00-4.15 pm; 4.15-4.30 pm; 4.30-4.45 pm; 4.45-5.00 pm; 5.00-5.15 pm; 5.15-5.30 pm; 5.30-5.45 pm; 5.45-6.00 pm; 6.00-6.15 pm; 6.15-6.30 pm; 6.30-6.45 pm; 6.45-7.00 pm; 7.00-7.15 pm; 7.15-7.30 pm; 7.30-7.45 pm; 7.45-8.00 pm; 8.00-8.15 pm; 8.15-8.30 pm; 8.30-8.45 pm; 8.45-9.00 pm; 9.00-9.15 pm; 9.15-9.30 pm; 9.30-9.45 pm; 9.45-10.00 pm; 10.00-10.15 pm; 10.15-10.30 pm; 10.30-10.45 pm; 10.45-11.00 pm; 11.00-11.15 pm; 11.15-11.30 pm; 11.30-11.45 pm; 11.45-12.00 pm; 12.00-12.15 pm; 12.15-12.30 pm; 12.30-12.45 pm; 12.45-1.00 pm; 1.00-1.15 pm; 1.15-1.30 pm; 1.30-1.4



